THURSDAY
April 17, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 91

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

KANCHA GACHIBOWLI ROW

Protect the 'forest', SC tells Telangana

SOUTH » PAGE 9

'POLITICAL VENDETTA'

Congress rallies behind Rahul, Sonia

NEWS » PAGE 13

'NOT A VICTORY'

'Woman' is defined by biology: U.K. top court

WORLD » PAGE 16

FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

The unfinished fight of an 'anti-national'

Umar Khalid's struggle to live with dignity

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

SUPER OVER FINISH

Capitals have the final say against Royals

SPORT » PAGE 17

Waqf-by-user denotification would be 'huge problem': SC

Chief Justice Khanna, hearing around 100 petitions over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, proposes a three-point interim order to 'balance equities'; court adjourned without passing any interim order

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 which derecognised the "established" Waqf-by-user category of property, allowed non-Muslims into Waqf administrative bodies, and granted the state power to determine if a property was Waqf or government's.

During the two-hour hearing of around 100 petitions in a packed courtroom, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, heading a three-judge Bench, went on to propose a three-point interim order to "balance equities" on all sides in the case.

Raising questions

Some of the amendments which came under the spotlight in the SC hearing:

1 Inclusion of non-Muslim members to the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards

2 Insertion of inheritance rights in Waqf Alal Aulad. This alters the principle that dedication of a Waqf is absolute

"Many of these Waqfs were created hundreds of years ago. Where do you find the records?"

KAPIL SIBAL
Advocate for the petitioners

"If a Muslim wanted to do charity, he could come out of the Waqf fold to perform his benevolence"

TUSHAR MEHTA
Solicitor-General of India

"Denotification of Waqf-by-user properties would lead to a huge problem... Many of the masjids were constructed in the 14th, 15th and 17th centuries. Asking them to produce a sale deed now is an impossibility"

SANJIV KHANNA
Chief Justice of India

Three points

First, he suggested that properties already declared Waqf by courts need not, for the time being, be denotified or treated as non-Waqf properties. These would include properties categorised as "Waqf-by-user" or Waqf by long usage without formal documentation or registration, Waqf by declaration or "otherwise".

Second, the Chief Justice mooted that the designated government officer could continue to look into whether a property was Waqf or government's, but a connected proviso freezing the use of the property in the meanwhile as Waqf could be stayed.

Third, Chief Justice Khanna mulled giving the go-ahead to the appointment of non-Muslims as ex-officio members in the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards, provided the other members were Muslims.

However, the government stalled the passing of any interim order, seeking more time to argue. The case was adjourned to 2 p.m. on Thursday without an interim order or issuance of notice to the Centre.

'Exceptional case'

The Chief Justice said the court would not normally intervene with legislation passed by Parliament, but there were exceptions. The CJI voiced concern that denotification of Waqf-by-user properties would lead to a "huge problem".

"Before the Britishers came, we did not have land registration law or Transfer of Property Act. Many of the masjids were constructed in the 14th, 15th, and 17th centuries. Asking them to produce a registered sale deed now is an impossibility, like in the case of Jama Masjid, which is Waqf-by-user property. If you had established 'Waqf-by-user' in the versions of the Waqf Act prior to the 2025 Amendment Act, can it be made void now?" Chief Justice Khanna asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta who was representing the Union government.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

'Violence in Murshidabad pre-planned'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Describing the violence in Murshidabad as "pre-planned communal riots", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said the Centre should be held responsible if elements from Bangladesh were found to be involved in the riots.

"I saw a post yesterday quoting Home Ministry sources that Bangladesh is involved in this. If that is the case, the Centre is responsible since the BSF guards the borders, not us. State government does not have the responsibility to guard the borders," she said, addressing a gathering of *imams* and *muezzins* in Kolkata. She urged members of the Muslim community not to fall into the trap of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NCW FORMS PANEL » PAGE 12

India, China move to restart Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Indian and Chinese officials are speeding up efforts to reach an agreement on restarting the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, which has remained suspended since 2019. The deadline for choosing pilgrims for the Yatra is coming up in a few weeks.

Sources said that the two sides have discussed the resumption of the pilgrimage in detail in the last few weeks, and expect a breakthrough "shortly". According to officials, talks have been narrowing the gaps on outstanding issues, including checking infrastructure on both sides, and reviving logistical systems for a smooth process of travel.

The Ministry of External Affairs has convened a meeting of all the involved agencies on April 21, sources said. An official in the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam also confirmed that preparatory work is under way.

The official added that arrangements are being made to take the pilgrims by special transport from Dharchula to Lipulekh pass, saving them a trek of about 80-100 km, which would otherwise take a few days.

The annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra used to be held between June and September each year until China withdrew facilities for visiting Indians during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the pilgrimage remained suspended due to tensions at the Line of Actual Control after the Galwan killings in 2020.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

All eyes are on special Cabinet meeting today

BENGALURU
As major communities battle it to out seeking a thaw in implementation of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, the much-anticipated special Cabinet meeting will decide the fate of the survey on Thursday. » PAGE 6

Governor sends Bill to President

BENGALURU
Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has reserved for the President's assent the Bill to introduce a 4% quota for Muslims in contracts to "avoid more constitutional complications". » PAGE 6

Resurgent Prasidh eager to make up for lost time

The speedster has struck a purple patch ever since he returned from injury, registering impressive returns for Titans in the absence of pace ace Rabada; the lanky bowler would look to remain fully fit as the five-Test tour of England beckons

SPORTZPICS/ IPL

R. Kaushik

He sat there, slightly curious, surveying the faces that have chronicled his tempestuous climb up the ranks. Re-familiarising, if you like. That's the journey Prasidh Krishna is on currently, when all other things being equal, he should have been part of a formidable Indian pace attack alongside Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj...

Prasidh was back at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, his Bengaluru home turf, for Gujarat Titans' IPL 2025 league fixture at the beginning of the month against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Like with the media corps hunched in the press conference room, he was also re-familiarising himself with the venue where he cut his teeth as a professional cricketer. The Chinnaswamy has been the scene of many a stirring success story for the 29-year-old, yet there was nervous anticipation as he mused the possibility of getting through a full season of the IPL without attracting unnecessary attention from injuries.

IPL 2025 is the strapping right-arm quick's comeback to the grandest T20 league, a comeback after two frustrating years spent more in recovery and rehab than on the field or in the nets, working on improving his skills, adding to his repertoire, becoming the complete and rounded pacer he had threatened to evolve into when he broke through as a raw, exciting, rough-around-the-edges 19-year-old back in September 2015.

Such was the promise he had shown and the potential that lay nestled in that lithe, spry, wiry frame that his first-class debut came not in the Ranji Trophy, but for Karnataka in a three-day tour game against a visiting Bangladesh 'A' side in Mysuru.

Karnataka were without their three main quicks, R. Vinay Kumar, Abhimanyu Mithun and S. Arvind, the trio that had fashioned back-to-back Ranji Trophy triumphs in 2014 and 2015.

In a largely spin-heavy attack, Prasidh had for pace company the muscular H.S. Sharath, himself not too many games old, against a formidable opponent that included Anamul Haque, captain Mominul Haque, Litton Das, Soumya Sarkar and Nasir Hossain. Would he allow the pressure of a big game (for him, definitely, before we smirk and roll our eyes) to get to him? How would he shape up?

Quite nicely, thank you. Very nicely, indeed. Charging in like the wind, he knocked over Rony Talukdar with his first ball in First Class cricket. Caught by Shishir Bhavane off the seventh ball of the match. Nerves settled, time to get down to business. Twelve deliveries later, he castled Anamul for five. Also in his extended first spell, he accounted for Sarkar (0) and Nasir (8).

When he returned to trap Kamrul Islam in front, Prasidh's debut entered the realms of 'dream'. Five for 49 in 12 overs, Bangladesh 'A' rolled over for 158, not a bad day in the office for a teenager who had pace, who had bounce and, most importantly, who seemed to have the bottle for battle.

Remarkably, nine and a half years later, Prasidh has played only 24 first-class matches - that's about two and a half games per year. Not because he has lost his red-ball mojo (he does have 88 wickets at 21.57) but because the dreaded 'I' word - any sportsperson's worst nightmare and a fast bowler's constant if much abhorred companion - has taken a more-than-seemly predilection to him.

Bouncing back

Much like his first-class debut, Prasidh made a sparkling maiden international appearance, against England in a One-Day International in Pune in March 2021. It had taken him five and a half years to break down the doors to national selection, but when he got his chance, he made it count with four for 54 in a 66-run victory. He took some tap early on but bounced back with the scalps of Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Sam Billings and Tom Curran. It was a statement of heart and intent, suggestive of the fact that this was a talent worth investing in, that he was a long-term prospect with all the attributes the primary stakeholders in Indian cricket dream of - height, pace, bounce, heart.

Whenever he got the chance, Prasidh did his chances no harm whatsoever over the next year and a half; by August 2022, he had positioned himself to be in contention for a place in the 50-over World Cup, a little over a year away. Okay, so that might seem a little optimistic, given that the tournament would be played at home, India already had Bumrah and Siraj and Shami as the spearheads with Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur looming as seam-bowling all-rounders. But Prasidh was right up there in the next line of quicks, primed to step in if form or injuries (oh, that dreaded word) deigned so.

Then, Harare happened. What started off as stiffness while bending during training mushroomed into something more sinister. Scans revealed a stress fracture in his left lumbar spine; rest and recovery went to plan, but more setbacks were in store, culminating in a stress fracture in his right lumbar spine as well. In the middle of February 2023, Prasidh went under the knife in New Zealand and returned to action by July during a club game in Bengaluru.

Onwards and upwards

His progress was swift enough for him to win the nod to travel to South Africa towards the end of the year, with India due to play Tests in Centurion and Johannesburg.

Prasidh finally got his India cap but it was a debut to forget - one for 93 from 20.2 overs as the hosts rallied from 249 for five in reply to India's 245 to post 408 and complete an innings victory. Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid persisted with Prasidh for the next Test in Cape Town, which India won inside two days, though he only had a bit part to play, exacerbated by a quadriceps injury that kept him out of the home England Tests and IPL 2024.

But Prasidh wasn't to be kept down, or out, for long. He was on the flight to Australia with the India 'A' team, taking 10 wickets in two unofficial 'Tests' in October-November 2024 and eventually being drafted into the XI for the final Test in Sydney. By now, things had started to take a turn for the better - touchwood - with Gujarat Titans having shelled out Rs. 9.5 crore at the November auction in Jeddah as part of a primarily India-centric pace attack.

Prasidh's Test comeback after exactly 12 months brought him six wickets on a pacer-friendly surface, and he showcased his return to peak fitness and supreme competitiveness with 10 unchanged overs in Australia's second-innings chase of 162 with Bumrah missing with a lower back injury.

In those 10 overs, Prasidh picked up three for 53 including Steve Smith with a snorter that the great batter could only fend, feet off the ground (ala Jacques Kallis against S. Sreesanth in Durban in December 2010), to Yashasvi Jaiswal at gully. For a brief while, Prasidh and Siraj stoked Indian hopes but they had no support worth the name as Australia eventually cantered to a six-wicket win.

IPL 2025 has seen an extension of that wonderful tour of Australia where, Prasidh and perhaps the Indian think-tank will now feel, he should have played a lot more. For all that, the season didn't begin greatly. In his first game in the tournament for three years, he went for 41 from his three overs in an 11-run loss to Punjab Kings - here we go again? - but since then, he has been on a roll, picking up wickets for fun and slipping effortlessly into the role of being summoned at different stages of an innings.

In the very next game against Mumbai Indians, Shubman Gill brought Prasidh on only in the 12th over, with the five-time former champions needing 100 in nine overs and the third-wicket pair of Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma in the middle of a wonderful stand. With his third delivery, he packed off Tilak; his accuracy was further rewarded with the scalp of Suryakumar, caught at long-off as he was undone by the lack of pace from a widish delivery outside off. Four overs on the trot brought him two for 18 as he broke the game open.

"It was the first time for me as well," Prasidh recalled at the aforementioned press conference on having to wait for nearly an hour for his first bowl in a T20 game.

"I just tried to keep myself in the game, be prepared every single over. T20 is such a game where you're not sure about when you're bowling beforehand. It can just happen in the moment of the game. The only thing I could control was making sure I'm up and running and know the pace of the game, so that when I come in, I don't really take up one extra ball to get into the pace of the game."

He's gotten into the pace of the game just magnificently since then - one for 26, two for 25, three for 24 and two for 26, all from his full quota, in the next four outings, bowling at different phases of the innings.

After six outings, he has ten wickets at an economy of 6.96 and a strike-rate of 13.80. Take away that first game against Punjab (you can't really, can you? But why not try?), and the corresponding numbers read 5.95 and 12.00 respectively. Alongside Siraj and left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore (who both have 10 wickets apiece too), he has ensured that the Titans haven't missed Kagiso Rabada, who flew back home after the second game due to personal reasons, and are perched near the top of the table.

Twin goals

A five-Test tour of England beckons not long from now. Prasidh's twin goals over the next six weeks will be to ensure he keeps his form going and, most importantly, divorces himself from old friend and foe, the spectre of injuries.

THE GIST

- IPL 2025 is the strapping quick's comeback to the grandest T20 league, a comeback after two frustrating years spent more in recovery and rehab than on the field.
- Prasidh broke through as a raw, exciting, rough-around-the-edges 19-year-old way back in September 2015
- Remarkably, nine and a half years later, he has played only 24 First Class matches because of the dreaded 'I' word — injury

Poor waste management: NGT pulls up Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Delhi has pulled up the Karnataka government over improper waste management and directed the State government to file a fresh action taken report on waste management.

"In spite of having regular reports in the last two years, the State has not finalised an executable working plan to plug gaps in solid and liquid waste management," the bench said in an order dated March 18, which was uploaded on the NGT website on April 15.

The Principal Bench of the NGT, comprising Chairperson Prakash Shrivastava, Judicial Member Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A. Senthil Vel, gave the order in a matter related to solid and liquid waste management, as per orders of the Supreme Court.

The order said in case of sewage treatment, in 315 ULBs of the State, 1170.93 MLD (million litres per day) of sewage is not treated and in case of the civic body in Bengaluru, 603 MLD of sewage is not treated every day.

In BBMP, 58.89 LMT (lakh metric tons) of legacy waste is yet to be remediated, which is lying at nine locations, and the Mandur Phase 2 site is to be completed by June 2027. In view of the fact that existing sites are already loaded with legacy waste, no fresh legacy waste out of unprocessed waste should be added there," the order said.

The NGT said in the case of BBMP, there is a huge gap of 3000 TPD (tonnes per day) in the processing of C&D (construction and demolition) waste.

Lorry strike enters second day, disrupts goods transportation across State

Minister Ramalinga Reddy says that another round of discussions will be held today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The lorry operators' strike in Karnataka entered its second consecutive day on Wednesday, following an inconclusive meeting between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and representatives of the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association (FKSLOA) held on Tuesday evening.

The indefinite strike by lorry operators has disrupted goods transportation across the State. The primary demands of the striking truckers include a rollback of the recent hike in diesel prices and a reduction in toll charges on State highways.

The strike, spearheaded by FKSLOA, has seen participation from nearly six lakh lorries, according to its president, G.R. Shanmugappa. "Our demands are non-negotiable. The strike will continue till the government rolls back the diesel price hike and fulfil all our demands," he asserted.

In Bengaluru's wholesale markets, traders fear an impact on the supply chain."There's been no serious shortage so far. But if the strike stretches beyond the next two days, we'll begin to feel the pinch. Most agricultural produce from other States hasn't arrived due to the strike. Only consignments coming by goods trains are reaching the city, and even those require lorries to be transported from railway stations to markets," Shailesh Ladhad, a trader from Yeshwanthpur APMC yard, told *The Hindu*.

A view of goods being loaded onto a lorry in Chamarajpet in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Another trader, B. Ravi Shankar, from Yeshwanthpur APMC yard, urged the government to act swiftly. "The State government must find a solution immediately. If this continues, it will not only impact traders like us but also disrupt the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on these markets for daily earnings – loaders, helpers, small shopkeepers. Eventually, even consumers will face price hikes and shortages," he said.

State-wide impact

Apart from milk tankers, all categories of goods carriers, including vehicles transporting fuel, LPG cylinders, food grains, industrial products, and construction materials, have been taken off the roads. The impact is felt not only within Karnataka but also in neighbouring States.

With lorries from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala also halting services into Karnataka, inter-State trade has been paralysed. Dhanaraj K., a trader from Madiwala market, described the situation as a complete logjam.

"Hundreds of lorries bring fruits, vegetables, poultry, and other goods to Bengaluru daily from Tamil Nadu. But now, most of them are parked near border points like Hosur and Sathyamangalam. The supply chain is disrupted," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that interstate transport has taken a hit. "Yes, lorries from other States have stopped coming, which has created bottlenecks. However, the situation within the State remains manageable for now," he said.

Apart from milk tankers, all categories of goods carriers, including vehicles transporting fuel, LPG cylinders, food grains, industrial products, and construction materials, have been taken off the roads

Mr. Reddy added that while the truckers were demanding the removal of toll charges at 18 locations on State Highways, they were not raising similar concerns regarding tolls levied by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

"Their protest is mostly directed at the state government. Even though the diesel price hike is a result of central policies, they are not urging the Centre to act," he noted.

He also addressed the truckers' opposition to the implementation of a Union government rule mandating a ₹15,000 charge for the renewal of fitness certificates.

"This is a Central government directive. Yet the demands are only placed before the State government," he pointed out.

The Minister assured that another round of discussions with the association will be held on Thursday in an effort to reach a resolution.

23% drop in start-up funding in Q1 2025 in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Data from market research firm Tracxn Technologies showed that Karnataka start-ups raised $633 million in the first quarter of 2025, down 23% from the $825.5 million raised in the last quarter of 2024.

Tracxn's Q1 2025 Karnataka Tech Funding Report also revealed a substantial contraction in year-on-year funding activity. The quarter recorded a 46% drop from the $1.20 billion raised in Q1 2024.

The State saw no new unicorns or funding rounds above $100 million this quarter. According to the report, the significant downturn indicated a widespread pullback in venture activity across the Karnataka tech ecosystem.

Bengaluru-based tech firms accounted for more than 99% of all funding

Bengaluru-based tech firms accounted for more than 99% of all funding seen by tech companies across the State

seen by tech companies across the State. This was followed by Hubballi at a distant second.

Seed stage start-ups saw a total funding of $57.3 million in Q1 2025, a drop of 14% compared to $66.6 million raised in Q4 2024, and a drop of 55% compared to $128 million raised in Q1 2024.

Early-stage start-ups fared better and saw an increase of 34% with a total funding of $294 million in Q1 2025 compared to $220 million raised in Q4 2024. However, year-on-year data showed a decline of 14%. Late-stage start-ups, too, witnessed a total funding drop of 48% compared to Q4 2024, and a 60% drop compared to Q1 2024.

Top performers

According to the report, enterprise applications, fintech, and retail were the top-performing sectors in Q1 2025 in terms of funding.

No companies went public in the quarter.

Tech companies in Karnataka saw 21 acquisitions in Q1 2025, which is a 91% increase compared to 11 acquisitions in Q1 and Q4 2024. Axio was acquired by Amazon at $150 million, making it the highest valued acquisition in Q1 2025.

This was followed by the acquisition of Digiledge by Mintoak at a price of $3.50 million. Accel, Blume Ventures, and Sequoia Capital were the overall top investors in the Karnataka tech ecosystem.

HC asks State govt. to act immediately against 'quacks'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to act against quacks running clinics after noticing that a 56-year-old person, who merely passed SSLC and had secured a certificate in alternative medicines from a private institute in West Bengal, has been running a clinic and prescribing medicines in a village in Mandya district by projecting himself as a 'doctor' for several years.

"It is un-understandable as to how the State is in blissful ignorance towards proliferation of such clinics without initiating any action. Therefore, it is for the State to immediately act, identify such clinics, and pull the curtains down of those clinics run by quacks," the Court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction while dismissing a petition filed by A.A. Muralidharswamy, who runs "Sri Lakshmi Clinic" at Modur village of Bookanakere hobli of K.R. Pet taluk. Meanwhile, the court directed the Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, to submit a report after taking action against such quacks across the State. The petitioner, prefixing 'Dr.' to his name even in the petition, had sought a direction to the Deputy Commissioner and chairperson of district registration committee for Karnataka Private Medical Establishments to accept his application for registration of his clinic under the provisions of the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007, without seeking any clarification from the taluk health officer.

On a pointed query from the court, the petitioner's advocate accepted that petitioner has only passed SSLC and has not secured any degree in either ayurveda, allopathy, or unani.

Special event on April 19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru, under the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the INTACH Bengaluru Chapter, will host a special event to mark 250 years of the legendary composer Muthuswamy Dikshitar.

The event is scheduled for April 19 at 5 p.m. at NGMA, 49 Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-06/146/2025-26 Date: 16.04.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of:

Name of the Work: Providing Water Supply Distribution Network for Vasanthanarasapura Phase-1, 2 & 3 Industrial Areas at Tumakuru. **(2nd Call)**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **02.05.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/234/Zen/2025-26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE II ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-17)
L.A.C No. 117/2011

The Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority National Highways Authority of India No. 678/3, Neerubhavi Kempanna Layout, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024
... Petitioner

V/S

Sr. B.R. Sampangiramaiah and Others
... Respondents

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No. 6(a) and (b) UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCECURE, 1908

Respondent No. 6 (a):
Smt. Pushpa Ganesh
W/o Late. B. L. Ganesh,
No. 1515, 17th Main, J.P. Nagar,
2nd Stage, Bangalore-560078

Respondent No. 6 (b):
Sri Hemanth
S/o Late. B. L. Ganesh,
No. 1515, 17th Main, J.P. Nagar,
2nd Stage, Bangalore-560078

Whereas the Petitioner above named has filed the above reference petition under Section 3-(H)(4) of the National Highways Act, 1956 before the Hon'ble II Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bangalore (CCH-17) seeking apportionment of compensation awarded towards lands in Sy. No. 3 acquired to an extent of 506 Sq. Mtrs situated at Bommanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, vide Final Notification bearing No. S.O. 1279 (E) dated 10th August 2006 issued under Section 3-D of the NH Act. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the **13th day of June, 2025** at 11'O clock to answer the same, failing which the Petition will be disposed of *ex parte*.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of land in Sy. No. 3 acquired to an extent of 506 Sq. Mtrs situated at Bommanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, vide Final Notification bearing No. S.O. 1279 (E) dated 10th August 2006 issued under Section 3-D of the NH Act.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29th Day of March 2025.

By order of the Court
Senior Sheristadar
City Civil Court, Bangalore.

SINGHANIA & PARTNERS
SOLICITORS AND ADVOCATES
701 & 702, PRESTIGE MERIDIAN II, No. 30, M.G. ROAD, BANGALORE-560001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, MR. VIPUL GUPTA s/o M. G. Gupta is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner.

All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office as shown below **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.764**, being portion of Khata No. 3639, as per BBMP Katha Property No. 4123/764, **New BBMP PID No. 2627388351**, measuring **East by: 60 feet, West by: 60 feet, North by: 36.41 feet, South by: 36.41 feet, in all measuring 2185 Sq.ft**, formed in the Converted **Sy. No. 20/6** (land converted to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum bearing No. B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)289/96-97, dated 17-03-1997, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), in the layout known as **"RAJA IRIS"** (earlier known as "SAI CITY) situated at Kammanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, together with all rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: - **East by** : Site No. 765, **West by :** Road, **North by:** Site No. 763, **South by:** Road

Dated this 17th day of April 2025 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
No. 428, 24th Main, 25th Cross, Sector – 2, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore – 560 102.
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the work
11	SE/P&A/NCTPS-2	Procurement of Control Fluid oil pump

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/1580/Tender/2025

SOUTH INDIAN Bank

The South Indian Bank Ltd.
Malleshwaram Branch
No. 31/1, 7th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560003
Ph.: 080-23348404

Date: 23.03.2025

NOTICE OF GOLD LOAN AUCTION

The Gold Articles pledged under the following gold loan account numbers at bank's branch Malleshwaram which are not cleared by payment of Bank's dues even after serving registered notice and gold articles pledged under same account numbers against which registered notice have been served / returned undelivered, will be sold in public auction or by private treaty on as is where is condition at Malleshwaram Branch premises as under or any other convenient date and time without further notice at the risk and responsibility of the pawners, if they are not released / renewed from the branch. Auction of gold ornaments pledged under the following accounts will be held at **MALLESHWARAM BRANCH** Bangalore on **03/05/2025** at South Indian Bank Ltd., Malleshwaram, Bangalore at **3:30 p.m.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Account Holder	Account Number	Gross Weight
1	VANI RAJU	0279653000079420	16.50
2	PUSHPA CHINTHANA	0279653000079369	48.00

Bank reserves right to adjourn / cancel auction at any point of time.

Branch Manager
SIB - Malleshwaram
Mob: 7521050821

CORPORATE & REGD. OFFICE:
SIB Towers, T.B. Road, Mission Quarters, Thrissur, Kerala - 680 001
Ph: +91 487 2420020; Fax : +91 487 2420020
E-mail: sibcorporate@sib.co.in; Website : www.southindianbank.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/71/2025 Dated : 17-02-2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for Providing Project supervision services at various Construction sites/ Sections in the jurisdiction of various Deputy Chief Engineers in Bengaluru Cantonment and Mysuru area. **(Tender Ref. No.: PSSA-BNC-MYS)**	Rs. 27,63,34,528/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
15-04-2025 (15:00 Hrs)	**23-04-2025 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/47/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/105/2025 Dated: 09-04-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Hubballi Division: Construction of RUB at Km:46.122 in lieu of LC No.26 of size 1x9.25x5.5m RCC Box at Hulkoti yard on Hulkoti- Chikkhandogola road between Hulkoti and Gadag stations by box pushing technology. **(Tender Ref. No.: RUB-LC26-LKTYARD)**	Rs. 17,82,50,802/-

Date of closing of Tender is :
Upto 15:00 hrs on 06-05-2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/38/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, धनबाद
मोबाईल नं० : 8789242462 Email : rdsd.dhanbad@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक:–299 धनबाद / दिनांक–16.04.2025

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – **05/2025-26/RDSD/EE/Dhanbad(DMFT)**

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:–

क्र0 सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत लोहपिट्टी पंचायत के एन0एच0–32 हरि मंदिर से दोमोहानी तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ का निर्माण।	196.89600	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि 2%	10000.00	6 महीना
2.	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड के केशरगढ़ा पंचायत सरियाडीह ऊपर बस्ती में 10 नं0 के रास्ते से जमुनीद नदी के रास्ते तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	158.03900	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि 2%	10000.00	6 महीना
3.	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड के धावाचिता पंचायत अन्तर्गत धावाचिता के बरवाडीह गाँव में एन0एच0–32 पथ से कतरी नदी तक तथा कतरी नदी से काली मंदिर तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ एवं कतरी नदी में पुल निर्माण।	110.02400	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि 2%	10000.00	4 महीना
4.	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड के हाथुडीह पंचायत अन्तर्गत सरकारी स्कूल से ठाकुर बाँध होते हुए महुदा रेलवे स्टेशन तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ निर्माण।	106.21800	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि 2%	10000.00	4 महीना
5.	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड के हाथुडीह पंचायत के कचर्रा से राजाभीठा दास टोला तक पथ का निर्माण एवं हाथुडीह पंचायत अन्तर्गत मुख्य पथ से हजारीबाँध होतु महादेव संसक के घर होते बाउरी टोला तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ का निर्माण।	138.92300	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि 2%	10000.00	4 महीना
6.	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड के धावाचिता पंचायत अन्तर्गत धावाचिता में शिव मंदिर से खेरवारी तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ एवं गार्डवाल का निर्माण।	106.87600	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि 2%	10000.00	4 महीना

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि –26.04.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय–दिनांक 26.04.2025 से दिनांक 05.05.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, धनबाद।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय– 07.05.2025 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– ई0 नरेन्द्र कुमार, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, धनबाद।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 8789242462 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जबावदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 350499 Rural Development(25-26)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, धनबाद

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	South-West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/55/2025-26 Dt: 15/04/2025(4th Call)	Rs.41,87,808/- / Rs.83,800/-	18-04-2025 upto 5.00 p.m.	21-04-2025 after 10.30 a.m.
2.		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/55/2025-26 Dt: 15/04/2025	Rs.56,89,621/- / Rs.1,13,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West)-2.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

3.	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/54/2025-26 Dt: 15.04.2025	Rs.7,83,825/- / Rs.19,600/-	25-04-2025 upto 3.00 p.m.	28-04-2025 after 3.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West)-2.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO230/25-26

DALL-E's response to the prompt "Show me a picture of a room with no elephants in it." IMAGE CREATED WITH DALL-E

Does AI still hallucinate or is it becoming more reliable?

New AI models are being trained with more data on queries where their predecessors used to hallucinate; yet experts say models like ChatGPT won't be able to reach a stage where they don't hallucinate unless they are updated with all the possible knowledge all across the globe on a real-time basis

Sayantan Datta

When people on the internet searched Google for "cheese not sticking to pizza" in May 2024, the newly launched 'AI Overviews' feature of the popular search engine replied "you can ... add about ⅛ cup of non-toxic glue to the sauce to give it more tackiness."

In a series of strange answers, the artificial intelligence (AI) tool also recommended that people eat one small rock a day and drink urine in order to pass kidney stones. The popular name for these bizarre answers is hallucinations: when AI models face questions whose answers they weren't trained to come up with, they make up sometimes convincing but often inaccurate responses.

Like Google's 'AI Overviews,' ChatGPT has also been prone to hallucinations. In a 2023 *Scientific Reports* study, researchers from the Manhattan College and the City University of New York compared how often two ChatGPT models, 3.5 and 4, hallucinated when compiling information on certain topics. They found that 55% of ChatGPT v3.5's references were fabricated; ChatGPT-4 fared better with 18%.

"Although GPT-4 is a major improvement over GPT-3.5, problems remain," the researchers concluded.

Hallucinations make AI models unreliable and limit their applications. Experts said they were sceptical of how reliable AI tools are and how reliable they are going to be. And hallucinations were not the only reason fuelling their doubts.

Defining reliability

To evaluate how reliable an AI model is, researchers usually refer to two criteria: consistency and factuality. Consistency refers to the ability of an AI model to produce similar outputs for similar inputs. For example, say an email service uses an AI algorithm to filter out spam emails and say an inbox receives two spam emails that have similar features: generic greetings, poorly written content, etc. If the algorithm is able to identify both these emails as spam, it can be said to be making consistent predictions.

Factuality refers to how correctly an AI model is able to respond to a question. This includes "stating 'I don't know' when it does not know the answer," Sunita Sarawagi, professor of computer science and engineering at IIT-Bombay, said. Sarawagi received the Infosys Prize in 2019 for her work on, among other things, machine learning and natural language processing, the backbones of modern-day AI.

When an AI model hallucinates, it compromises on factuality. Instead of stating that it doesn't have an answer to a particular question, it generates an incorrect response and claims that to be correct, and "with high confidence," according to Niladri Chatterjee, the Soumitra Dutta Chair professor of AI at IIT-Delhi.

Why hallucinate?

Last month, several ChatGPT users were amused when it couldn't generate images of a room with no elephants in it. To test whether this problem still persisted, this reporter asked OpenAI's DALL-E, an AI model that can generate images based on text prompts, to generate "a picture of a room with no elephants in it." See the image above for what it made.

When prompted further with the query, "The room should have no pictures or statues of elephants. No elephants of any kind at all," the model created two more images. One contained a large picture of an elephant while the other contained both a picture and a miniature elephant statue. "Here are two images of rooms completely free of elephants – no statues, no pictures, nothing elephant-related at all," the accompanying text from DALL-E read.

Such inaccurate but confident responses indicate that the model fails to "understand negation," Chatterjee said.

Why negation? Nora Kassner, a natural language processing researcher with Google's DeepMind, told *Quanta* magazine in May 2023 that this stems from a dearth of sentences using negation in the data used to train generative AI models.

Researchers develop contemporary AI models in two phases: the training and the testing phases. In the training phase, the model is provided with a set of annotated inputs. For example, the model can be fed a set of elephant pictures labelled "elephant." The model learns to associate a set of features (say, the size, shape, and parts of an elephant) with the word "elephant."

In the testing phase, the model is provided with inputs that were not part of its training dataset. For example, the researchers can input an image of an elephant that the model didn't encounter in its training phase. If the algorithm can accurately recognise this picture as an elephant and distinguish it from another picture, say of a cat, it is said to be successful.

Simply speaking, AI models don't understand language the way humans do. Instead, their outputs are driven by statistical associations they learn during the training phase, between a given combination of inputs and an output. As a result, when they encounter queries that are uncommon or absent in their training dataset, they plug in the gap with other associations that are present in the training dataset. In the example above, it was "elephant in the room." This leads to factually incorrect outputs.

To evaluate an AI model two criteria are used: consistency and factuality. Consistency refers to the ability of an AI model to produce similar outputs for similar inputs. Factuality refers to how correctly an AI model is able to respond to a question

Hallucinations typically occur when AI models are prompted with queries that require "ingrained thinking, connecting concepts and then responding," said Arpan Kar, professor of information systems and AI at IIT-D.

More or less reliable?

Even as the development and use of AI are both in the throes of explosive growth, the question of their reliability looms large. And hallucinations are just one reason. Another reason is that AI developers typically report the performance of their models using benchmarks, or standardised tests, that "are not foolproof and can be gamed," IIT-Delhi's Chatterjee said.

One way to "game" benchmarks is by including testing data from the benchmark in the AI model's training dataset.

In 2023, Horace He, a machine learning researcher at Meta, alleged that the training data of ChatGPT v4 might have been "contaminated" by the testing data from a benchmark. That is, the model was trained, at least partly, on the same data that was used to test its capabilities. After computer scientists from Peking University, China, investigated this allegation using a different benchmark, called the HumanEval dataset, they concluded that there was a good chance it was true. The HumanEval benchmark was created by researchers from OpenAI, the company that owns and builds ChatGPT.

According to Chatterjee, this means while the model might perform "well on benchmarks" because it has been trained on the testing data, its performance might drop "in real-world applications."

A model without hallucinations

But all this said, the "frequency of hallucination [in popular AI models] is reducing for common queries," Sarawagi said. She added this is because newer versions of these AI models are being "trained with more data on the queries where the earlier version was reported to have been hallucinating." This approach is like "spotting weaknesses and applying band-aids," as Sarawagi put it.

However, Kar of IIT-Delhi said that despite there being more training data, popular AI models like ChatGPT won't be able to reach a stage where they won't hallucinate. That will require an AI model to be "updated with all the possible knowledge all across the globe on a real-time basis," he said. "If that happens, that algorithm will become all-powerful."

Chatterjee and Sarawagi instead suggested shifting how AI models are built and trained. One such approach is to develop models for specialised tasks. For example, unlike large language models like ChatGPT, small language models are trained only on parameters required to solve a few specific problems. Microsoft's Orca 2 is an SLM built for "tasks such as reasoning, reading comprehension, math problem solving, and text summarisation," for instance.

Another approach is to implement a technique called retrieval-augmented generation (RAG). Here, an AI model produces its output by retrieving information from a specific database relevant to a particular query. For example, when asked to respond to the question "What is artificial intelligence?", the AI model can be provided with the link to the Wikipedia article on artificial intelligence. By asking the model to refer to only this source when crafting its response, the chances of it hallucinating can be substantially reduced.

Finally, Sarawagi suggested that AI models could be trained in a process called curriculum learning. In traditional training processes, data is presented to AI models at random. In curriculum learning, however, the model is trained successively on datasets with problems of increasing difficulty. For example, an AI model can be trained first on shorter sentences, then on longer, more complex sentences. Curriculum learning imitates human learning, and researchers have found that "teaching" models this way can improve their eventual performance in the real world.

But in the final analysis, none of these techniques guarantee that they will get rid of hallucinations altogether in AI models. According to Chatterjee, "there will remain a need for systems that can verify AI-generated outputs, including human oversight."

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

Leptobrachium aryatium, a new-to-science frog recorded from a reserve forest on the edge of Guwahati. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Studied over 21 years, new species of frog named after Assam college

Rahul Karmakar

A study spanning 21 years has yielded a new species of frog named after an Assam college that helped a locality shed its identity as a hub of country liquor production.

Guwahati's Aryanagar used to be called *Sharabbhati*, meaning a place for brewing liquor. The locality was renamed to give it the respectability that the local authorities felt Arya Vidyapeeth College, one of Assam's most reputed educational institutions in the vicinity, deserved. *Leptobrachium aryatium*, a frog new-to-science recorded in the Garbhanga Reserve Forest in the southwestern part of Guwahati bordering Meghalaya, is now wearing the college's name.

The frog has been described by four zoologists, associated with Arya Vidyapeeth College either as alumni or faculty members, in the latest issue of the journal *Zootaxa*.

They are Jayaditya Purkayastha of Guwahati-based NGO Help Earth; Dipankar Dutta of the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya; Jayanta Gogoi of Arya Vidyapeeth College; and Saibal Sengupta of Assam Don Bosco University.

"This frog stood out with its fiery orange-and-black eyes, a unique reticulated throat pattern, and a smooth, rhythmic call at dusk. Scientific analysis of its appearance, DNA, and call patterns confirmed that this was a previously unknown species," Dr. Purkayastha said.

DNA and call patterns confirmed that this was a previously unknown species. It is named after a prominent college in the locality where it was discovered

The genus *Leptobrachium*, comprising a group of stocky frogs with broad heads, relatively short hind limbs, and distinctively coloured eyes, currently consists of 38 speciesand is widely distributed across Southern China and India to islands of the Sunda Shelf and the Philippines.

Studied first in 2004, the frog from the Garbhanga Reserve Forest was initially identified as the *Leptobrachium smithi*. "Not much work was being done on this genus for a long time. Recent molecular and morphological studies revealed significant cryptic diversity within the genus, describing several new species, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Burma region," Dr. Purkayastha said.

The quartet of zoologists reverted to their old data on their subject, and after tallying them with the new studies on the other species in the genus, established *Leptobrachium aryatium* as a distinct species.

The study has put the spotlight on the Garbhanga Reserve Forest, a biodiversity hotspot that has been threatened by urban sprawl and habitat destruction.

A reserve forest that helps regulate Guwahati's climate and water systems, Garbhanga is home to elephants, butterflies, and rare birds, apart from reptiles and amphibians such as *Leptobrachium aryatium*.

rahul.karmakar@thehindu.co.in

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

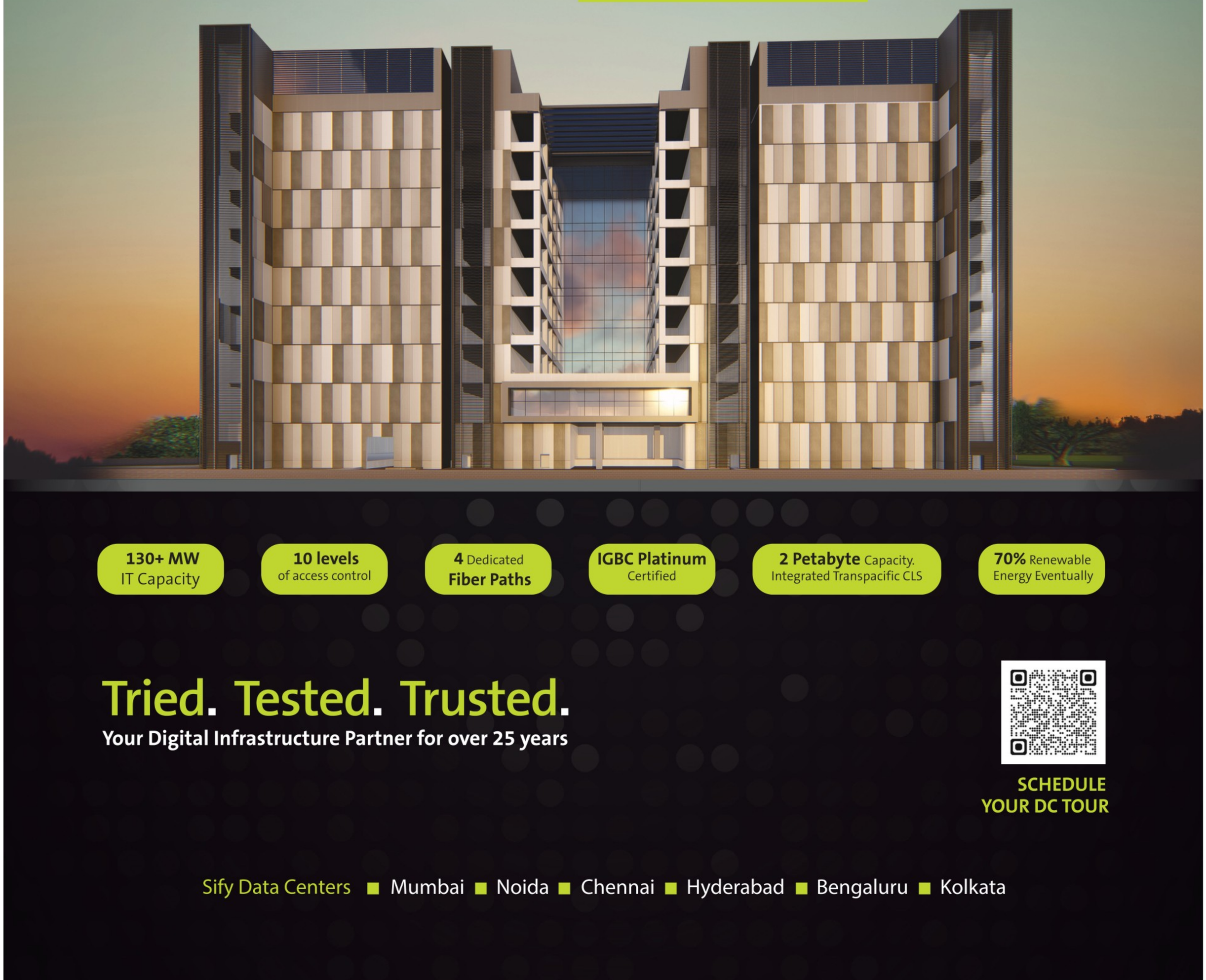
sify

INAUGURATION OF
SOUTH INDIA'S LARGEST
AI-READY DATA CENTER CAMPUS

PRESIDED BY
THIRU. M.K. STALIN
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

Date : 17th April, 2025 | Venue : Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd, SIPCOT, Siruseri.

Largest AI-ready, IGBC Platinum Rated
Green Data Center Campus
in South India Chennai 02 Siruseri



130+ MW IT Capacity
10 levels of access control
4 Dedicated Fiber Paths
IGBC Platinum Certified
2 Petabyte Capacity. Integrated Transpacific CLS
70% Renewable Energy Eventually

Tried. Tested. Trusted.
Your Digital Infrastructure Partner for over 25 years

SCHEDULE
YOUR DC TOUR

Sify Data Centers ■ Mumbai ■ Noida ■ Chennai ■ Hyderabad ■ Bengaluru ■ Kolkata

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Quarterly decline in funding to Karnataka tech startups

23 in per cent. The Karnataka Tech Quarterly Funding Report Q1 2025 revealed a contraction in funding activity compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year. According to the report, no new unicorns or funding rounds exceeding $100 million was recorded this quarter. PTI

The increase in India's organic product exports in 2024-25

34.6 in per cent. India's organic product exports rose to $665.96 million from $494.8 million in 2023-24 on account of the increase in demand for items such as pulses, essential oil, fresh fruit and vegetables in developed countries, data showed. PTI

Global investment in bonds which fund sustainable projects

15 in $ billion. Bonds funding projects that have positive environmental benefits are called green bonds. Universities are implementing comprehensive sustainability frameworks, according to a study conducted by education company MSM Unify. PTI

Civilians in Gaza killed by Israeli airstrikes since March 18

11 Israel resumed its aerial and ground offensive across Gaza from March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire that had largely halted hostilities in the territory. A pre-dawn air strike in Gaza City killed 10 people, including several women and children. AFP

India's trade gap with China in the financial year of 2024-25

99.2 in $ billion. In the last fiscal, India's exports to China contracted 14.5% to $14.25 billion as against $16.66 billion in 2023-24. The U.S. remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

How China is fighting U.S. tariffs

The most unexpected development following the launch of Trump's trade war has been China's retaliation. Its long-term strategy of hedging against risk, from the actions of an aggressive trade partner, has enabled the country to counter one of the worst trade-related escalations in modern history

ECONOMIC NOTES

Biswajit Dhar

In the three months since U.S. President Donald Trump launched his "America First" trade policy, weaponising trade to extract concessions from his partner countries, there are indications that it could bring the global economy to its knees. "Reciprocal tariffs" were proposed as a key component for eliminating what Mr. Trump perceived as "unfair trade practices" of partner countries.

But on April 9, the day this instrument was to take effect, President Trump did a turnaround and the implementation of "reciprocal tariffs" was postponed by 90 days for all 57 target countries, except China.

The objective of the U.S. administration is to compel its trade partners to negotiate bilateral agreements within the stipulated period, through which they offer concessions to American stakeholders. The Trump administration's expectation is that trade partners would then be forced to reduce their trade deficits vis-à-vis the U.S., an overarching trade policy objective of the new President.

Both China and Japan lowered their holding of U.S. treasury bonds over the years, although Japan's holding increased slightly since 2023. China's has fallen lower than that of Japan. As of January 2025, China's holding reduced to $761 billion and just 8.9% of the overall treasury bonds. The corresponding numbers for Japan are $1079.3 billion and 12.7% respectively

1 In 2018, the U.S. was China's largest export market with a 19.2% share. But over the past six years, China reduced this figure to below 15% and in the first quarter of 2025, only 13.5% of China's exports reached the U.S.

2 China continues to remain as the second largest holder of United States Treasury bonds. However, in recent years, it has been gradually selling its holdings

Chart 1: China and Japan's holdings in U.S. treasury bonds (in $ billion)

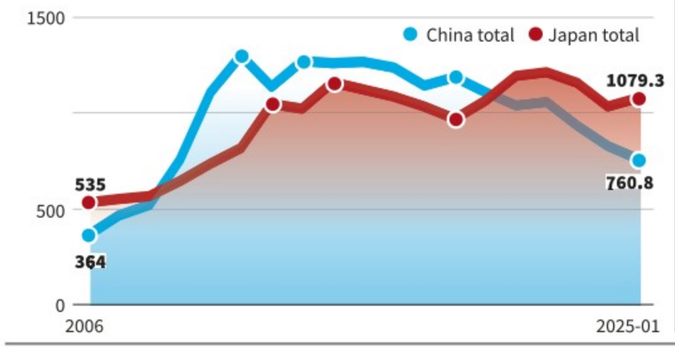
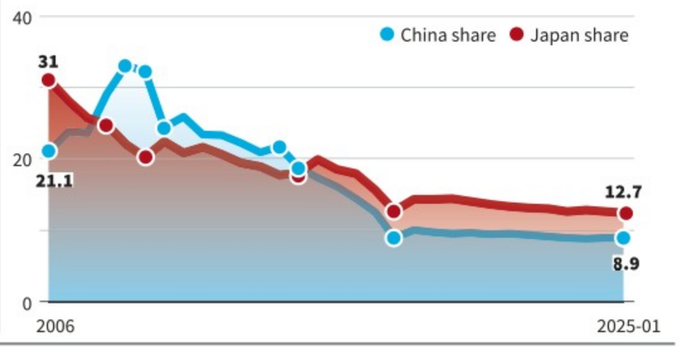


Chart 2: China and Japan's shares of total U.S. treasury bonds (in %)



THE GIST

China had declared right from the beginning, even as the U.S. President was laying down the contours of this aggressive trade policy, that it would challenge the decision to impose "reciprocal tariffs".

Though Donald Trump's decision to pause the implementation of "reciprocal tariffs" to push his trade partners to conclude bilateral deals made immediate headlines, the move was part of a strategy that the President's advisers had worked out well before he took office.

By diversifying its exports as a part of its defensive strategy, China is in a position to leverage its two significant strengths to force the hands of its aggressor.

A trade war

China had declared right from the beginning, even as the U.S. President was laying down the contours of this aggressive trade policy, that it would challenge the decision to impose "reciprocal tariffs". And as anticipated, China announced its decision to impose retaliatory tariffs equivalent to the 34% "reciprocal tariff" that it faced, in response to which Mr. Trump imposed an additional tariff of 50%, raising the overall tariff burden to 104%. China then escalated the trade war by imposing 125% tariffs on all its imports from the U.S., which led to the White House increasing tariffs again to 145%.

However, in the midst of this escalation, Washington tacitly admitted to the potential impact these tariffs would bring by exempting a number of critical electronic goods, including computers, laptops, smartphones, and semiconductor devices, from such tariffs, reflecting the overwhelming dependence of the U.S. on import of these products. There is still confusion about the same in the Trump administration, which was evident when Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick, informed that tariffs on electronics products would be included within semiconductor tariffs in a "month or two", only to be contradicted by the President, who declared that these tariffs would be imposed sooner. The "America First" trade policy is causing much chaos, with its adverse implications impossible to gauge at this juncture.

Two sets of issues arise as Donald Trump's trade war continues to hold the global economy to ransom. First, can the 90-day pause in the implementation of "reciprocal tariffs" provide the Trump team opportunities to stitch together at least a few agreements that would allow the "dealmaker" President to wax eloquent about his accomplishments? Secondly, what explains Xi Jinping's extraordinary defiance against Donald Trump's all-out attempt to corner Beijing? And more importantly, does Mr. Xi have a strong trump card with which he can effectively counter Donald Trump and his "America First" trade policy?

The U.S.'s negotiating agenda

Though Donald Trump's decision to pause the implementation of "reciprocal tariffs" to push his trade partners to conclude bilateral deals made immediate headlines, the move was part of a strategy that the President's advisers had worked out well before he took office. Stephen Marin, chair of the U.S. council of economic advisers, had argued in a paper published immediately after Donald Trump's election as President that "tariffs create negotiating leverage for incentivising better terms from the rest of the world on both trade and security terms. America would encourage other nations to move to lower tariff tiers, improving burden sharing". Peter Navarro, senior counselor for trade and manufacturing, explained that the 90-day pause was "part of a calculated negotiating tactic", and "a demonstration of Trump's signature dealmaking style".

These explanations would no doubt be immensely satisfying for the President, but the question is whether trade deals can actually be re-negotiated with at least a few targeted countries. This seems improbable for at least two reasons. Under the Trump administration, the U.S.' negotiating approach has undergone a major change, as the *de jure* trade negotiator, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is no longer in charge of negotiations. Peter Navarro revealed that Trump, "the boss, is going to be chief negotiator. Nothing is done without him looking very carefully at it." When the head of the government of the world's largest economy decides to micro-manage trade deals, it is possibly safe to conclude that negotiations would be a non-starter.

A second problem for the U.S. is that it has a gargantuan negotiating agenda, a peek into which was provided in a recent USTR report – the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers. This report highlights "significant foreign barriers to U.S. exports, U.S. foreign direct investment and U.S. electronic commerce" in India and 56 other countries. It identifies "unfair trade practices [undermining] U.S. exporters' competitiveness and, in some cases, [preventing] U.S./ goods from entering the foreign market entirely". It can, therefore, be argued that unless these "unfair trade practices" identified by the USTR are removed, the U.S. President's aspiration of "Making America Great Again" cannot be realised.

If Trump has to secure this grand bargain, India, for instance, would have to open its agricultural markets for U.S. agri-business, lower its agricultural subsidies, discontinue its public distribution system, and amend its Patents Act risking the future of India's generic pharmaceutical companies providing affordable medicines. India would also have to discontinue policies that the U.S. has repeatedly red-flagged, including data localisation, and regulations on genetically modified crops and dairy products. Would India and other targeted countries allow Donald Trump to coerce them into amending their laws and policies to "clinch" a trade deal?

China's strategy

The most unexpected development following the launch of Trump's trade war has been China's retaliation. In his first term as President, Mr. Trump had forced China to ink an enforceable Economic and Trade Agreement in 2020, acceding to several of his demands. But over the past five years, the nature of the U.S.-China trade relationship has changed drastically, which could explain the push back from the world's second largest economy. In 2018, the U.S. was China's largest export market with a 19.2% share. But over the past six years, China reduced this figure to below 15% and in the first quarter of 2025, only 13.5% of China's exports reached the U.S. At the same time, China has diversified its export markets, with ASEAN emerging as the most significant destination. Several major economies, including India, Vietnam, and the Russian Federation, have seen an appreciable increase of the Chinese footprint in their economies. This is a remarkable instance of hedging against risk, from the actions of an aggressive trade partner, which has enabled China so far to counter one of the worst trade-related escalations in modern history.

By diversifying its exports as a part of its defensive strategy, China is in a position to leverage its two significant strengths to force the hands of its aggressor. The first is China's control over the rare earth market, accounting for 92% of global output. China has already shown its hand by imposing export restrictions on seven types of rare earth minerals in the past few days.

A second advantage for China is its position as the second largest holder of U.S. Treasury bonds, but in recent years, it has been gradually selling its holdings. Since 2018, China has reduced its holdings from $1.2 trillion (22% of the total) to $761 billion (less than 9%) in January 2025 (see Charts). Though it seems unlikely at this juncture that China would take the risk of dumping its holding to challenge the U.S., any further escalation of the trade war can alter the situation.

Given this grave risk of economic disruption, major economies must coordinate their efforts to ensure that the U.S. President abandons unilateralism, and reposes his faith in multilateralism as the way forward.

Biswajit Dhar is a retired Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development.

State relaxes age criteria for class 1 admission for 2025-26

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa says this relaxation will not be given next year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has again relaxed the minimum age limit for admission of students to Class 1 from 6 years to 5 years and 5 months, in all State curriculum schools for the academic year 2025-26.

While announcing the decision on Wednesday, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said this relaxation will not be given next year, and the minimum age of six years would be strictly implemented.

In 2022, the then-BJP government had passed an order stipulating the minimum age for class 1 admission as six years as per the National Education Policy - 2020.

Madhu Bangarappa

Demand from parents

Following anxiety among parents that several children who did not make the cut but were already enrolled in kindergarten classes would waste a year, the government deferred the implementation of the norm by two years. It was supposed to be enforced from 2025-26.

However, this year too, there were demands from parents to relax the age limit, responding to which the State government has again issued an order relaxing age limit for the coming academic year on Wednesday.

"The six-year minimum age limit for class 1 admission was supposed to be enforced from 2025-26. But parents have again demanded this to be relaxed. The Chief Minister had also instructed to take an appropriate decision in this regard. Therefore, after discussing with the State Education Policy Commission, based on the guidelines given by them, we have reduced the age limit for admission to Class 1 to 5 years and 5 months for 2025-26 alone," Mr. Bangarappa said.

According to the order issued on Wednesday, a child who has passed UKG and is 5 years and 5 months old and a child who has completed three years in Anganwadi and is 5 years and 5 months old can be enrolled in class 1.

As per the government rules, the maximum age limit for children to enroll in class 1 is 8 years.

'Central board schools'

"As per the rules, the age relaxation by the State government will be applicable to all government, aided, and private schools in the State. This order should also be followed by Central board schools, including Indian Certificate of Secondary Education and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). However, we cannot issue an order to them, but the boards should issue an order in this regard. If the State government's order is not followed by the Central board schools and parents complain, a petition will be submitted to the boards' concerned," Mr. Bangarappa said.

Mixed reactions

Some parents who met Mr. Bangarappa on Wednesday appealed for the age limit relaxation to be extended to 2026-27 as well, as their children are presently studying in LKG and in 2026-27 when they pass out of UKG, they wouldn't have yet attained six years. Rejecting their request, Mr. Bangarappa said that the order was already three years old and appealed to parents to let their children enjoy their childhood. He said the relaxation would not be extended next year.

The Private School College Parent Associations Coordination Committee and private schools organisations like Recognized Unaided Private Schools Association have welcomed the government's decision to relax the age limit for 2025-26.

Decision opposed

However, the association management of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has opposed the government's decision and submitted a petition to the Chief Secretary and urging to implement the six-year minimum age limit from June 1.

"We will discuss with parents and school management to explore the possibility of challenging the State government's order in the court," urged D. Shashikumar, general secretary of KAMS.

Legal battle

Meanwhile, the CBSE schools' association has also criticised the government for relaxing the rules and that they will support the KAMS in the legal battle.

'Chance for students who failed exam-1 of II PU'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that II PU students who failed exam-1, but registered for the annual exam-2 will be eligible to appear for the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET-2025) counselling from the first round itself.

"This provides an opportunity for students who failed in exam-1 to continue pursuing higher education," he said.

Out of a total of 1,69,353 students who did not clear the exam-1, around 1.57 lakh (92.4%) students have now enrolled for exam-2, which will be held from April 24.

"CET authorities have confirmed they will wait to accommodate these students (second examination candidates), ensuring their eligibility based on the second exam results. To see 92.4% of students who have not cleared the exam, enrolling for exam-2 is a very positive sign. Remedial classes are being actively conducted for those enrolled for exam-2, with attendance rates as high as 95%, indicating strong student commitment. Mock tests are also conducted to prepare the students better for the second and third examination," he added.

94.2% attendance across State on day one of CET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Common Entrance Test (CET) conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) saw an attendance of 94.2% on Wednesday.

Out of the 3,21,985 students who downloaded their hall tickets for the exam, 3,11,777 of them attended the physics exam in the morning session and 183 more students attended the chemistry exam in the afternoon.

"The exam, held under strict camera surveillance, saw extensive preparations. For the first time, a QR code-based facial recognition system was successfully implemented to verify candidates' authenticity. While minor technical glitches were reported at some centers during the morning session, no issues arose in the afternoon," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director, KEA.

However, in some colleges that faced server connectivity issues, including Sheshadripuram College in Bengaluru, there were long queues of students to get into the exam centres.

Writing her exam in BMS College of Engineering, Anna D'souza, a candidate, faced some difficulties with her OMR sheet. She said, "I panicked initially because the OMR sheet had a smudged barcode, but the invigilator replaced it quickly. The exam started on time otherwise, and the staff was supportive."

Students undergoing security checks before CET at the exam centre in Sheshadripuram College in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

> For the first time, a QR code-based facial recognition system was successfully implemented to verify candidates' authenticity
> **H. PRASANNA**
> Executive Director, KEA

Many candidates said that though they prepared by practicing using mock tests, the actual exam was tougher. "The paper was of a moderate level. There were only two to three extremely hard questions. I just wish I had focused more on revision rather than mock tests," said Arham, a student who appeared for the exam at Jyoti Nivas College.

"I was not very well prepared. So I left around 20 questions for the last. I felt the questions were more application-based this time. I've been preparing with mock tests, and that helped, but still, the pressure is different in the actual exam," said Shreelakshmi K, another candidate at the same centre.

Around 30 students who had turned up without hall tickets were assisted by the KEA staff with last-minute solutions, Mr. Prasanna said. "Some students faced issues like insufficient mobile balance or blocked numbers, preventing them from downloading hall tickets via OTP. Our staff swiftly sent hall tickets via WhatsApp, working intensively until 10.29 a.m. to ensure no candidate was left out," he said.

The exam for mathematics paper will be held today morning while the exam for biology paper will be held in the afternoon.

Ex-Bigg Boss contestant held for violating bail condition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basaveshwara Nagar police on Wednesday arrested former Bigg Boss Kannada contestant, Rajath Kishan, for violating his bail conditions resulting in a non-bailable warrant issued against him.He was later remanded to 14 days' judicial custody.

The accused and his associate Vinay Gowda were arrested previously for uploading an Instagram reel brandishing a machete publicly and misleading the police while surrendering the weapon used for the offence.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, APR. 17			
RISE	06:06	SET	18:32
RISE	22:15	SET	08:50
FRIDAY, APR. 18			
RISE	06:05	SET	18:33
RISE	23:09	SET	09:41
SATURDAY, APR. 19			
RISE	06:05	SET	18:33
RISE	00:00	SET	10:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	32	21

Bengaluru Today
34ºC Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34ºC The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

The business cards of 'Got Old Clothes?' campaign in Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Got old clothes? Here's a business card to dispose them of

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of its ongoing #Invaluables initiative, BBC Media Action, in association with Saamuhika Shakti collective, has unveiled a unique business card that calls for responsible discarding of old clothes.

Created using discarded clothes collected from Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs), the cards have been fabricated by waste picker families at skill development centres run by Sambhav Foundation. They come with a WhatsApp number, which people who wish to dispose of their old clothes can contact.

The initiative is part of BBC Media Action's newly launched 'Got Old Clothes?' campaign that aims to urge people of Bengaluru to responsibly discard their old clothes.

The number +91 9741730854 managed by Hasiru Dala (which is also a Saamuhika Shakti partner) will connect users to a chatbot. The bot will guide the users to the nearest DWCCs where they can drop off used garments and linens. Hasiru Dala would arrange doorstep pickups for quantities exceeding 50 kilograms.

According to a report by Enviu, India generates 7.2 million tonnes of textile waste annually, of which 3.94 million tonnes is post-consumer textile waste discarded by households.

"With this phase of the #Invaluables, we wanted to move from awareness to action and reframe them as professionals. There is an urgent need to recognise these professionals who are the backbone of our waste value chain and circular economy... The card represents a shift in how we see and value waste pickers," said Soma Katiyar, Executive Creator Director, BBC Media Action, India.

Decentralised system

Research by Hasiru Dala estimates that around 60% of discarded textiles received at DWCCs in Bengaluru have recycling potential if collected separately and uncontaminated. Estimates also suggest that approximately 22,500 people are engaged in waste picking, significantly contributing to the city's waste management system.

Circular Apparel Innovation Factory - a Saamuhika Shakti partner - in tandem with Hasiru Dala has operationalised a decentralised system of daily collection of post-consumer textile waste from 16 wards in Bengaluru through DWCCs and the aggregation centre from where they moved to a Textile Recovery Facility and are then recycled.

Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra
(A Registered Society)
Planning & Development Department
बिहार सरकार
आवश्यक सूचना

बिहार मौसम सेवा केन्द्र द्वारा PR No.- 000690 (Planning) 2025-26 से प्रकाशित निविदा की कंडिका–03 यथा Date of Pre-Bid Meeting दिनांक 19.04.2025 को 02:00 बजे अपराह्न से निर्धारित है। उक्त Pre-Bid Meeting अपरिहार्य कारण से दिनांक 19.04.2025 को अब 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से आयोजित होगी।

PR No.- 000690 (Planning) 2025-26 से प्रकाशित निविदा की अन्य कंडिका एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

निदेशक
बिहार मौसम सेवा केन्द्र,
बिहार, पटना

PR. No. 001250 (Planning) 2025-26

उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ।

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 04/2025/SBC Dated: 10-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No	Description in Brief
L8255561	Supply and Installation of Aerosol fire detection & suppression system cartridge 1 No. 8/10 gm is to be provided in onboard panel and 1 No. 100 gm. in underslung panel in line with technical parameters and approved makes as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/PE/SPEC /AC/0184-2015 (Rev.1) Qty- 557 Nos.

Last date for submission/Tender Due on: Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 05-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/45/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Gnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka
Ref.No:VTU/BGM/RE/Hostel Mess-ROM/2025-26/IFT No.10/276 Date: 15-04-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) - (Through E-Procurement Only)
As per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act - 1999 & Rule 2000, The Registrar, V.T.U., Belagavi invite Tender through e-Procurement basis from eligible Tenderers, registered in Labour Department and Other Concerned Department for the work of **Providing Catering Services for UG & P.G. Students at Mess Block of VTU, Regional Center, Mysuru (Average Annual Amount of Rs. 1,99,88,095/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnata ka.gov.in on 16-04-2025.**
Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi
DIPR/Belagavi/92/Adverto/2025-26

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, VINITHA Mahaveerchand Bohra W/o Dinesh Kumar.G, 24, 10th Cross, 1st Main, Chamarajpet, Bluru-18 have changed my name to Vinitha.M (Vinitha Mothilal) vide affidavit dt 16.04.25 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

I, R Shiji Mathew, R/at C/o. Raji V Mathew, Old No.12, New 33, Krishnamurthy Layouts 1st Cross, Thavarekere, Bangalore-560029, have changed my name from Shiji Mathew to R Shiji Mathew vide affidavit dated 16/04/2025 sworn before Notary Harisha.G, B'luru

I, Girish Deshi S S/O Deshi Shivappa R/O Flat 110, Shiva Shree Garden Apartments Block 2, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Beml Layout 5th Stage, Behind Beml Complex, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560098, Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Daughter Namely Purvi G Deshi (Aged 9 Years) And She Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ishaanvi Deshi For All Future Purposes

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14.
Ph: 0487-2459800 (30 lines)
Website:www.oushadhi.org
E-mail:marketing@oushadhi.org
NOTICE
S4-21/24 15.04.2025
Expression of interest is invited from experienced parties for 2025-2026 for appointment as **Liaison Agents** in different states of the country to procure order for our products. Interested parties may submit their details to the undersigned **on or before 10.05.2025 4 pm.** For more details visit our website **www.oushadhi.org.**
(Sd/-) Managing Director

Department of Agriculture
Commissionerate of Agriculture
Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
No. JDA(E,T&e-Gov)/e-Proc/KSDA/LFD/01/2024-25 Date: 28.03.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Department of Agriculture (DoA) invites the short-term tender for **Supply of 03 number of Large Format Displays**, through e-procurement portal in accordance with the Bid Document.
The Bid document containing instructions to Bidders, criteria for qualification and criteria for may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Website of Government of Karnataka "GoK" **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the Proposals shall be submitted as per the provisions of document.
Bid submission closing date : 27.04.2025. Opening of bid documents: 02.05.2025. EMD: Rs 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty Thousand only). Bid Security: Rs. 1,25,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Twenty five thousand Only)
Project Proponent: Department of Agriculture, GoK. **Contact Person: Shri Marthand.** Assistant Director of Agriculture (Farm Information). **Address:** Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, Sheshadri Rd, Bangalore-560001
Ph: +91-80-22074138/8277929837. **Email:** digigrigok@gmail.com
Sd/-
Director of Agriculture & Tender Inviting Authority.
DIPR/CP/JA/236/2025-26

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No: JDA(E,T&e-Gov)/e-Proc/AIC/KSDA/Server with OS/01/2024-25 Date: 28.03.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Department of Agriculture (DoA) invites **"Proposals"** from interested suppliers to Supply Server with OS unit to Agriculture Department through e-Procurement Portal in accordance with the Bid Document.
The bid document containing instructions to Bidders, Criteria for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Website of Government of Karnataka ("GOK") viz. **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the Proposals shall be submitted as per the provisions of the tender document.
Important Details: Bid Publishing Date: **29.03.2025.** Bid submission closing date: **27.04.2025.** Opening of bid documents: **02.05.2025**. **EMD: Rs.30,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Thousand only) **Bid Security: Rs.75,000/-** (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand only)
Project Proponent: Department of Agriculture, GoK, Contact Person: Shri Marthand. Address: Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-01. Phone: +91-80-22074138. e-mail: digiagrigok@gmail.com
DoA reserves the right to cancel this invitation and / or invite fresh proposals or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/239/Maa/25-26 Director of Agriculture & Tender Inviting Authority

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ANDHRA PRADESH SECRETARIAT, AMARAVATHI
NOTIFICATION
Rc. No. 939202/I1/2025, Dated:16.04.2025
Applications are invited for filling up of the posts of one Chairperson and four members of the AP Real Estate Regulatory Authority, from the eligible candidates, according to the eligibility criteria as narrated under Rule 18 (Chapter -VI) of AP Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017 issued in G.O.Ms. No.115 MA&UD (H) Dept., dated 27.03.2017.
The interested and eligible candidates shall send their applications along with documents supporting their request in sealed envelopes addressed to Sri Ajay Jain, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government, Housing Department & Chairman, Search Committee for AP RERA, Room No-101, Ground Floor, Building No-5, A.P Secretariat, Velagapudi, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522503. The detailed web notification along with requisite qualification, eligibility criteria and application format is available in **https://www.ap.gov.in.**
The last date for receipt of the applications is **05.00 PM on dt: 07.05.2025**
(Sri Ajay Jain, IAS)
Chairman, Search Committee for APRERA

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(P), Mahadevapura Zone, K. R. Pura, Bangalore - 560 036.
No: BBMP/EE/(P)/MZ/TND/04/2024-25 Date:15.04.2025
CORRIGENDUM-2
Ref.: Tender Notification No. BBMP/EE(P)/MZ/TN/04/2024-25 dtd 06.03.2025, the dates of the referred tender are modified as follows. All Other terms and conditions remains the same.

Calender of Events	Modified/ Read as
Tender documents can be downloaded from the KPP Portal from : **10.03.2025**	Tender documents can be downloaded from the KPP Portal from : **16.04.2025**
Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **14.03.2025 at 11.30 a.m.**	Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **21.04.2025 at 11.30 a.m.**
Last date for submission of tender documents: **20.03.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.**	Last date for submission of tender documents: **23.04.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.**
Technical bid shall be opened on : **24.03.2025 at 4.30 p.m.**	Technical bid shall be opened on : **25.04.2025 at 4.30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Zone

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

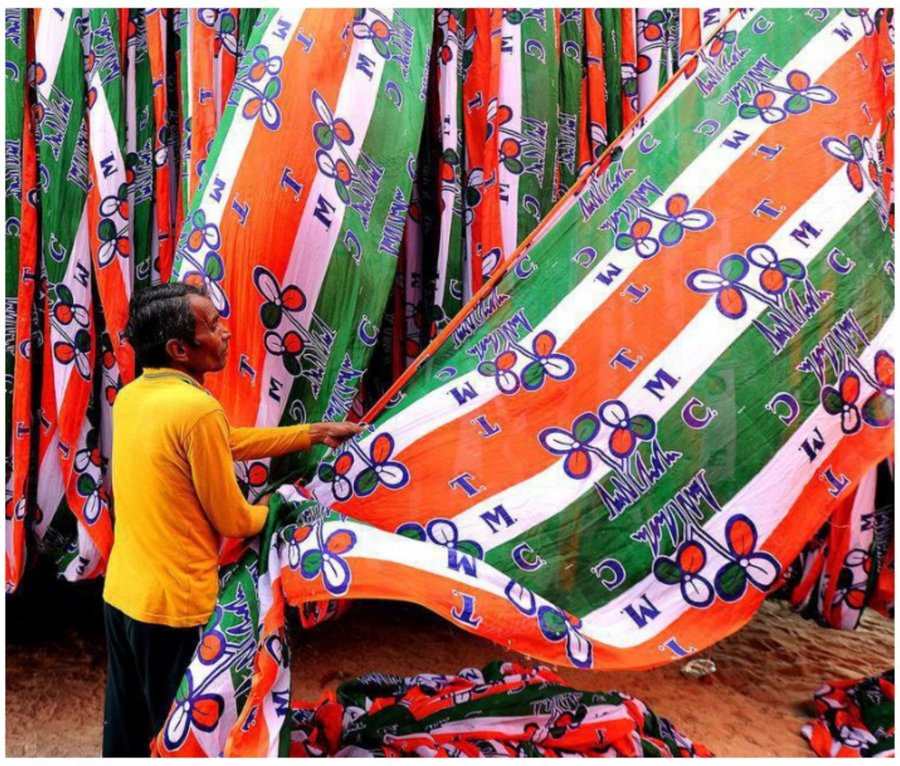
ABSTRACT

How the nature of Trinamool's leadership changed over time

The dominant understanding of the Trinamool Congress' governance approach is that, in the absence of economic growth, it seeks "desirable reelectable outcomes" through welfare delivery

G. Sampath

Mahmood, Zaad., and Bhattacharya, Soham (2025), 'The Roots of a Populist Regime: Examining the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal', *Studies in Indian Politics*, 1- 18, Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.



Party building: A worker processes election banner material of Trinamool Congress in 2021. VIJAY SONEJI

The 2011 Assembly Election was a watershed moment in West Bengal politics. It saw the end of the Left front era and the rise of the Trinamool Congress, which has since emerged as the dominant party in the State, with victories in the 2016 and 2021 polls.

Political scientists have deployed multiple registers to explain the political transformation under the Trinamool's rule. Some have invoked "subalternisation of politics", clientelism, rent-seeking, welfarism and identitarianism, while others have given credit to party chief Mamata Banerjee, "whose popularity divested to local leaders, centralised authority, cultural outreach and governmental populism" was a sharp departure from the "organisation-centric politics of the CPI (M)". While all these were factors, also present were features of classic populism, such as "charismatic, personalist leadership", and a "division between people and the elite with Banerjee as the champion of the marginalised, directly communicating with the people in an affective style".

The authors of this study argue that these perspectives, though illuminating, do not explain the changes in the Trinamool's organisational structure and leadership since 2011. This paper contributes to the debate on the changing nature of Bengal politics at two levels: first, it unpacks the class-caste composition of Trinamool's support base; second, hypothesising that "government policies are shaped by the interests of the dominant support bases", it analyses the Trinamool government's budget allocations to "explore the material interests served by the regime beyond welfarism".

Politics beyond welfarism

The dominant understanding of Trinamool's governance approach is that, in the absence of economic growth, it seeks "desirable reelectable outcomes" through welfare delivery. Their model of welfare delivery is "dependant on a local patron" in contrast to the "party-based delivery system promoted by the Left Front." In practical terms, this has meant that the intended beneficiaries of a welfare scheme had to pay some percentage of their entitlements "to the local Trinamool leaders as a condition for accessing benefits". This has led to an increasing acceptance of corruption as "the 'necessary evil' of transaction fees". However, in the absence of a strong political organisation, such an incentive structure of 'rent-sharing" has been pivotal for Trinamool to retain party workers.

At the same time, there have also been other changes following the collapse of the "party society" that characterised the Left Front era, marked by the hegemony of the Bhadralok over the social and cultural milieu. For instance, one question that comes up is whether a "post-Bhadralok leadership" has ascended to the helm of Bengal politics in the Trinamool era. If yes, is this leadership subaltern? Or is it made up of other sections that have sought to appropriate Bhadralok values?

To answer these questions, the authors analyse the socio-economic profile of the candidates nominated (not just elected) to contest elections in the State.

Relying on data from the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) database, they look at four features of each candidate: caste, self-reported occupation, level of education, and declared assets. They have created a dataset of all the candidates from the four leading political formations in the State – Left Front (CPI-CPIM-RSP-AIFB), Trinamool Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress – who contested the polls in 2011, 2016, and 2021. They follow this up with an exploratory analysis of the State budgets for the years 2016-21.

Caste profile from 2011 to 2021

To map the changing nature of political leadership in the State, the authors start by summing up the political terrain under the Left Front regime – a leadership "largely composed of the middle-class socio-economic strata imbued with certain cultural and social capital". Although the Left Front emerged on the back of support from the poor and marginal sections of society, leadership remained in the hands of the urban and rural middle class.

Of course, this began to change post-liberalisation, in the later years of the Left Front regime, when "the stagnation in the agricultural economy sector and the ascendance of the private sector led to the proliferation of commercial activities and trade" among sections of the middle class – eventually changing its character. Some scholars have attributed the Left Front's uncharacteristic policy shifts to the changes in the character of the middle class, a change that has continued to play out post-2011, under the Trinamool regime as well.

This paper seeks an empirical grounding for these shifts in the changing profile of Trinamool candidates over time. For starters, it documents a steady increase in the representation of non-forward castes and SC/ST among Trinamool MLAs. Candidates who were "Hindu-lower caste-dalit-adivasi increased for the [Trinamool] from 19.4% in 2011 to 22.8% in 2016," and to more than 25% in the 2021 Assembly elections. As the paper notes, "this is distinct from the political trajectory of West Bengal, overwhelmingly dominated by Hindu forward castes."

The representation of lower castes, including SC/ST, rose from 20% in 2011 to 25% in 2021, prompting some to construe it as a "subalternisation" of politics. But that argument falls flat given that Hindu Non-Brahmin Forward castes also sharply increased their representation (from 18% in 2011 to 24% in 2021).

Occupation, education and wealth

Noting that caste is not the sole register of backwardness, the paper proceeds to consider other metrics: the occupation and education of the Trinamool candidates. The number of candidates who self-identified their occupation as "business" rose substantially over time – from 25% (56 out of 227 candidates) in 2011 to 32.7% in 2021 (95 out of 290). Another category that witnessed a sharp spike was "social and political workers" (a proxy for full-time politicians), which rose from 16% in 2011 to nearly 30% in 2021.

The rise in these two categories is accompanied by a decline of candidates from the 'professionals/services' category employed in formal public or private sectors. Interestingly, the rise in the percentage of candidates from business or political/social work was seen across all caste categories. The authors offer three possible explanations for this: one, greater political assertion among an emergent upper and middle class within backward castes through the Trinamool Congress; two, parties preferring candidates with deeper pockets; and three, political parties "become avenues for wealth-creation and rent-seeking that are represented through business".

The next level of analysis looks at the declared educational level and wealth of the candidates. The share of 'graduates and above" among Trinamool candidates has increased from 48% in 2011 to 63% in 2021, while the average annual assets of Trinamool candidates grew at a rate of 8.8% in nominal terms from 2011 to 2016. Their average asset value rose from ₹74.87 lakh in 2011 to ₹2.85 crore in 2021.

While Left Front candidates had the least assets on average, the Trinamool and the BJP had the greatest increase in wealthy candidates. The authors gloss these findings thus – the Trinamool and the BJP may be nominating wealthier candidates due to rising cost of elections, or wealthier individuals may be gravitating to these two dominant parties. Secondly, "political parties appear to have evolved into platforms for wealth-accumulation and rent-seeking." This explanation also dovetails with the expanding body of literature that highlights the "interconnectedness of criminal networks, politicians, bureaucrats and businesses, revealing how political funding, clientelism, the black economy and patronage intersect with kinship and community ties to sustain criminal-political formations."

After comparing the changes in candidate profiles across parties and over time (2011 to 2021), the authors observe that what was "distinct for the Trinamool, as opposed to other parties, is the declining share of the professional middle class along with an expanding share of business and full-time party workers." From this, they infer that the Trinamool Congress has become "the venue for a class, that is educated and rich, spread over non-Brahmin forward castes and backward classes and involved in business and politics." This grouping is distinct from the traditional middle class, which was employed in professions and services. It owes its origin not to cultural capital but to economic capital of a "noncorporate nature".

What the State budgets reveal

To find out whether this new commercial class is "dominant and able to influence policy", the authors incorporate another dimension in their study: an analysis of State budget documents between 2016 and 2021.

Expectedly, they find that the largest share of revenue expenditure goes to the social sector (43%), given the Trinamool's thrust toward direct beneficiary transfers and a "scheme-led" model of development. But importantly, an analysis of the capital expenditure revealed that 31% went into the economic sector, while only 22% went to the social sector. A breakdown of this 31% showed manufacturing received only 6%, agriculture and allied got 11%, while 26% went to transport, followed by irrigation and flood control (22.7%), and rural development and special areas programme (21.7%).

The channelling of capital expenditure toward sectors like transport and rural development, the paper observes, "is a mechanism to create indirect social overhead capital", and this is skewed "towards sectors where Trinamool elites have an interest." Although these investments benefit society, "they also function as indirect support for sectors like real estate, wholesale and retail trade, tourism and transport – industries dominated by the non-corporate commercial elites".

The paper concludes that the Trinamool, by combining marginal benefits to the poor with indirect patronage of the "non-hegemonic commercial class" has found an effective means to consolidate political and economic power.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"My next door neighbour's brother was assassinated yesterday."

'Assassinated! Was he someone important?"

"Important? No, he was just a..."

"....Well, if he wasn't important, then he was probably 'murdered, not assassinated'."

"What's the difference between the two words?"

"When people like you and me get killed..."

"...that's not very funny."

"Don't get so worked up. It's just an example. As I was saying, when people like you and me get killed by someone it's called 'murder'. When an important person gets killed, it's called an 'assassination'. For example, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated."

'Indira Gandhi and Kennedy were assassinated too, weren't they?"

"Yes, they were. When important people are killed for political or religious reasons, it's called an assassination. But tell me, why was the neighbour's brother murdered?"

"No one seems to know. He was going to home after work..."

"...you don't say 'going to home'. You go to school, you go to prison..."

"...but you don't go to home, I suppose."

"That's right. You go home. The word 'home' doesn't take 'to' before it."

"What happens if we use 'house' instead of 'home'?"

"Well, in that case, you say 'He was going to his house' or 'I am going to my house'. Let's continue with our story, shall we?"

"O.K. He was going home when somebody stabbed him. They took him to the hospital and put him in the intense care unit. I mean the intensive care unit. An hour later, the poor man died."

"Sounds like a terrible way to die."

"I know. Tell me, is there a difference between 'intense' and 'intensive'?"

"There most certainly is. 'Intense' means 'strong, vigorous, unusually firm'. For example, because of the intense heat Balagopal didn't sleep well."

"Can I say, Prabhakar is an intense sort of person?"

"You can. The word 'intensive', on the other hand, means 'concentrated'."

"My sister is preparing intensively for the final exams. Can I say that?"

"I suppose you could. But that doesn't sound like your sister. Is she really working hard?"

"Working hard! Hardly working I would say. That sentence was just an example."

"Well, in that case, here's another example. I am planning to take an intensive course in Japanese."

"Why Japanese? Why not take an intensive course in Spanish?"

"Because the person teaching Spanish is too intense for my liking."

Published in The Hindu on March 5, 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Acclaimed Columbian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez died on April 17, 2014. Here is a quiz on the literary 'magician'

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Name the style of narration attributed to Marquez.

QUESTION 2
Name the Peruvian author, who died this week, who had an altercation with Marquez and ended up punching him in the face.

QUESTION 3
What does 'El Universal' mean with respect to Marquez?

QUESTION 4
Name the birthplace of Marquez which gave him the inspiration for many of his fictional towns.

QUESTION 5
Name the autobiography of Marquez.

Visual question:
This is a still from a recently released Netflix adaptation of a Marquez novel. Name the novel.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Charlie Chaplin's most memorable on-screen character. **Ans: The Tramp**
2. Chaplin's first feature-length film. **Ans: *The Kid***
3. Chaplin was given a special trophy "For versatility and genius in acting, writing, directing and producing _____". **Ans: *The Circus***
4. This celebrated writer accused Charlie of being a secret communist. **Ans: George Orwell**
5. This actor plays Chaplin (1992) directed by Richard Attenborough. **Ans: Robert Downey Jr.**
Visual: Identify this 1940 film. **Ans: *The Great Dictator***
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tom Alan Faith| Parimal Das| Arun Kumar Singh| Sumana Dutta

Word of the day

Invective:
abusive or venomous language used to express blame or deep-seated ill will

Synonyms: vitriol, vituperation

Usage: *She misunderstood and hurled a stream of invective at me.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/invectivepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈvɛktɪv/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Nature-based solutions key to climate resilience in coastal cities: CSTEP report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Coastal cities such as Mangaluru and Chennai need to urgently embrace nature-based solutions (NbS) such as wetland restoration, rooftop greening, and permeable pavements to address the escalating challenges of flooding, environmental degradation, and climate-induced vulnerabilities, according to a recent report by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a Bengaluru-based think tank.

Titled *Urban Greenprints: A Nature-based Solutions Feasibility Framework for Urban Coastal Regions*, the report noted that both cities have witnessed a sharp decline in green cover and increased encroachments on natural water bodies. These changes, compounded by extreme weather events, have exposed the limitations of conventional grey infrastructure, such as stormwater drains and concrete embankments. This underscores the urgent need to adopt Nbs as part of a more sustainable and resilient urban strategy, the report noted.

Report states that both Mangaluru and Chennai have witnessed a sharp decline in green cover and increased encroachments on natural water bodies

Important findings

The study was conducted in 23 wards of Chennai and four wards of Mangaluru. Among the main findings is the potential for rooftop greening, which could expand NbS-covered areas by 76% in Chennai and 80% in Mangaluru within the selected study regions. In both cities, the uptake of permeable pavements could enhance stormwater drainage capacity by 5%, reducing surface runoff and mitigating flood risks.

"In cities like Chennai and Mangaluru, even modest ward-level investments in green infrastructure can yield substantial long-term savings and ecological benefits. As climate risks intensify, integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning is not just desirable—it is essential for building resilient, adaptive, and sustainable cities," said Lakshmi Menon, Senior Analyst in the Adaptation and Risk Analysis group at CSTEP.

Economically viable

CSTEP's cost-benefit analysis demonstrated that NbS interventions are not just environmentally sustainable but also economically viable.

In the study area in Chennai, an investment of ₹2,203 crore for select NbS could result in annual savings of ₹505.31 crore in avoided flood damages, with a payback period of just over four years.

In study wards in Mangaluru, a smaller investment of ₹172.97 crore could still generate ₹11.62 crore in annual savings, breaking even within 15 years and becoming cost-positive by 2027.

To translate these insights into action, the report proposed a phased roadmap of urban NbS uptake, which involves engaging local communities, raising awareness, and initiating pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness against localised climate risks. The next step is to scale up interventions and align urban development policies with NbS objectives, it stated

The report recommended that policymakers in the study regions embed NbS within their core climate resilience strategies. It also urged local governments to take the lead in piloting scalable NbS initiatives, leveraging data and technology for better decision-making, and fostering collaborations across sectors and stakeholders.

Auto driver dies after metro girder falls on vehicle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old autorickshaw driver was killed in an accident during the construction of the Namma Metro line to the airport in Bengaluru late on April 14 night.

A large pole – part of a viaduct structure – fell off a truck and landed on the autorickshaw near Kogilu Cross.

The victim was identified as Qasim Saab. According to the police, the accident took place around midnight when an 18-wheel truck transporting construction material from the Vadiyarpura casting yard lost balance while turning near Kogilu Junction at Yelahanka.

The truck was carrying a girder, which slipped and fell onto Qasim's moving autorickshaw, killing him on the spot. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) issued a statement on April 15, confirming the incident. "The BMRCL regrets to report a fatal accident that cost the life of an auto driver, who was killed in an unfortunate incident around 12 a.m. last night," read the statement.

It further explained that the girder-laden truck had to brake suddenly to avoid a vehicle that had unexpectedly entered its path. This caused the girder to topple onto the autorickshaw. "Emergency services were pressed into action immediately, and the driver's body was recovered using cranes. However, he was declared dead by medical personnel," according to the statement. The BMRCL has assured that the family of the deceased will be compensated as per protocol.

The local police have registered a case and are trying to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

THE HINDU GROUP

WHERE INSIGHTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN NOISE.

For too long, debates have been about decibels, not dialogue. It's time to cut through the clutter and tune into ideas that matter. Step into a space where ideas drive the conversation, and dialogue shapes perspectives. Huddle in as we bring together the brightest minds to discuss what matters most for the nation and its progress.

Welcome to The Hindu Huddle.

SAMI-SABINSA GROUP
Presents
THE HINDU
HUDDLE
INDIA IN DIALOGUE.

May 9 & 10, 2025
Taj West End, Bengaluru*
Watch the space to know more.
*Entry only by invite

Associate Partners: Akshayakalpa Organic; PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY
Realty Partner: CASAGRAND
Knowledge Partner: AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM
Radio Partner: Radio City 91.1 FM

THE HINDU GROUP

BE A PART OF TAMIL NADU'S START-UP BOOM.

The Hindu Tamil Nadu Startup Summit brings together founders, investors, and industry leaders to foster collaboration and drive innovation. This initiative paves the way for the upcoming Global Startup Summit organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
Get ready for the ultimate startup power-up.

April 24, 2025 | 9:30 am onwards
Entry by Invitation

SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Presents
THE HINDU
TAMIL NADU STARTUP SUMMIT-25
Co-presented by
StartupTN
In association with
sify

Chief Guest
Valedictory Address at 6:45 PM

Thiru T M ANBARASAN
Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Urban Habitat Development Board, Government of Tamil Nadu

Keynote Address at 9:45 AM

Dr Atul Anand, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary, MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

In the presence of

Dr C Muthamizhchelvan
Vice Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology

AR Unnikrishnan
Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council & Managing Director - Glass Group, Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd

Sivarajah Ramanathan
Mission Director & Chief Executive Officer Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission

Panel Discussion Line-up

Session 1: 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM
Building a Diverse Startup Ecosystem: Inclusion & Gender Equality
Session 2: 11:55 AM - 12:55 PM
Startup Success Begins in the Classroom: The Power of Education in Innovation
Session 3: 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM
Nurturing Entrepreneurship in South Tamil Nadu: Opportunities & Challenges
Session 4: 3:40 PM - 4:40 PM
Digital Transformation: Startup as a Catalyst for Change
Session 5: 5:55 PM - 6:55 PM
HealthTech Innovations: Revolutionizing Healthcare in Tamil Nadu

Fireside Chat Line-up

Session 1: 11:20 AM - 11:50 AM
Harnessing Innovation: Tamil Nadu's Role in the Global Startup Ecosystem
Session 2: 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Nurturing Startups from Campus to the Global Scale: Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Universities
Session 3: 4:45 PM - 5:15 PM
Democratizing Retail: How AI is Empowering Businesses of All Sizes

Phygital Commerce Partner: RetailGPT Just Prompt
Technology Partner: Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY
Strategic Partner: CII Confederation of Indian Industry
Fragrance Partner: MANGALDEEP PREMIUM QUALITY INCENSE
TV Partner: புதிய தலைமுறை

For sponsorship queries & partnerships
98419 62820
98408 16017

Scan the QR code to register or visit
newsth.live/TNSSPA

A BG-BGE

Governor sends 4% quota Bill to President for assent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has reserved for the President's assent the Congress government's Bill to introduce a 4% quota for Muslims in contracts to "avoid more constitutional complications" while stating that the country's founding document does not allow religion-based reservations.

The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Budget session of the State legislature in March.

The Bill proposes to provide Muslims with the 4% quota in construction works contracts valued up to ₹1 crore.

The Opposition BJP has strongly opposed the Bill and termed it as "appeasement politics" of the ruling Congress in Karnataka.

The Governor's decision came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Haryana recently blasted the Congress government for reservation in tenders on the basis of religion by "snatching away" the rights of SC/STs and OBCs.

"The Constitution of India does not permit reservation based on religion, as it violates the principles of equality (Article 14), non-discrimination (Article 15) and equal opportunity in public employment (Article 16)," Mr. Gehlot stated in his communication to the government.

The Governor said the Supreme Court "has consistently" ruled that affirmative action must be based on social and educational backwardness and not religious identity.

Ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, the previous BJP government withdrew the 4% reservation under Category-2B and the case is pending in the Supreme Court.

In a recent judgment of Saurabh Chaudri vs. Union of India 2003), the Supreme Court said that Articles 15 and 16 prohibited reservations on the basis of religion and any affirmative action must be rather based on the socio-economic factors.

The Governor noted a Calcutta High Court case on the classification of 77 Muslim communities as OBCs in West Bengal, which was struck down.

The Bill also increases the reservation limit in construction works contracts for SC/STs from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore. It also introduces reservation for SC/STs, Category-1, Category-2A and Category 2-B (Muslims) of OBCs in government tenders for the procurement of goods and services up to ₹1 crore.

Caste census report: All eyes are on special Cabinet meeting today

It comes in the midst of one-upmanship between political and community leaders belonging to Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who are opposing the report, and backward classes leaders, who have termed the report 'scientific'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As major communities battle it to out seeking a thaw in implementation of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, the much-anticipated special Cabinet meeting will decide the fate of the survey on Thursday.

The meeting comes in the midst of one-upmanship between political leaders and community leaders belonging to Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who are opposing the report, and the backward classes leaders, who have termed the report to be 'scientific'.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Speculation is rife about the possibility of a Cabinet sub-committee being set up to study the report comprehensively and recommend about the action to be taken.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told presspersons in Kalaburagi that he would not allow injustice to any community, and that a decision would be taken at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday. Responding to Channagiri legislator Shivaganga Basavaraj's statement urging Lingayat legislators to resign in protest, the Chief Minister said that the legislator had expressed his opinion and the Cabinet will decide on the issue.

Elected representatives from the Vokkaliga community and from the Congress who met at Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's residence on Tuesday are learnt to have discussed the nature of the response from the community Ministers in the Cabinet.

While a section wanted to dispute the entire report, the other section advised that since the survey had been done through government machinery during the Congress government, it cannot be outrightly rejected. Discussion revolved around accepting the socio-economic status report while disputing the population data, sources said, adding that a redo of population count could be sought.

Meanwhile, the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha has decided to meet its community legislators and Ministers after the special Cabinet meeting. The mahasabha has also sought legal advice on the report from a retired judge, who has already given his opinion.

Sources in the mahasabha said that owing to logistical issues and the Congress' protest against price rise on Thursday morning, the meeting of legislators from the community as well as the meeting with the Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha will be held after the Cabinet meeting. "However, we are informally holding discussions with Vokkaligara Sangha representatives," sources said.

CM accuses Modi govt. of 'vindictive politics'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Enforcement Directorate's chargesheet against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is yet another chapter in the 'vindictive politics' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

In a statement released to the media on Wednesday, he said: "This is not merely an act of retribution against two leaders of the Congress. It is a clear warning by the Modi government to opposition parties, and all citizens who believe in democracy, that dissent will not be tolerated.

"The Congress, which has consistently faced such politics of hatred, would once again respond with the strength of truth and justice."

He accused the Narendra Modi-led government of misusing the ED, a supposedly autonomous investigative agency, as a political weapon to target opposition leaders.

Many castes have moved from more backward to most backward category

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Amidst an intense discussion on the population figures of the Vokkaliga and the Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities in the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report submitted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, what has raised eyebrows is the reclassification of Kurubas, widely seen as a relatively well-off community with political representation both in Parliament and the State legislature. Along with a few other communities, Kurubas have been recommended to be moved from more backward category of 2A to most backward in category 1B.

Other communities that were in the more backward category of 2A who have been moved to most backward category of 1B include Madiwalas, Kumbaras, Savithas, and Hoovadigas, among others, that are also numerically stronger.

A total of 80 castes/sub castes have been grouped in Category 1B. In other reclassification, Marathas, who were in the backward Category 3B have been moved to the more backward Category 2A.

A source, who worked in the commission, said that the reclassification shows that despite over three decades of remaining in category 2A, these communities have not moved away from backwardness.

In fact, the Kuruba community has been demanding that it should be moved to the Scheduled Tribe list in the State. They account for 43.72 lakh or about 7.3% of the enumerated population and are the fourth largest community grouping in the State after Muslims, Veerashaiva-Lingayats, and Vokkaligas. Incidentally, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who commissioned the survey in 2015 under H. Kantharaj Commission, belongs to the community.

Currently, Category 2A has 15% in the reservation matrix and Category 1 has 4%. However, the Hegde Commission has recommended creation of Category 1A and Category 1B with 6% and 12% reservation respectively. The reservation for Category 2A has been reduced to 10% as castes/sub castes have been moved to 1A.

"The reclassification has been done based on the recommendation of an expert committee and the weightage that has been given to each community. Political representation alone does not count. There could be a large population that is still to see development," a source in Mr. Hegde's commission told *The Hindu*.

The source said that literacy level and representation in public service are also taken into consideration. "One need not see the reclassification through a political lens. Categories for many castes have been reassigned depending on the findings of their status in the survey. Classification has not been done randomly," sources said.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy took a dig at Mr. Siddaramaiah on Wednesday. Indirectly pointing at the Kuruba community bagging a bigger share in reservation benefits, he asked: "Who were the ones who enjoyed the lion's share in the benefit under Category 2A? There are 101 castes in Category 2A and 15% reservation. Who has taken the largest portion in this?"

How were castes categorised?

the hindu bureau
BENGALURU

The commission is learnt to have considered social, education, and livelihood criteria – totalling to 19 – with a weightage of 100, 68, and 32 marks, respectively, totalling to 200. Keeping 90 as the 'cut- off point', those communities that have been marked above 90 have been considered as most backward for Category 1.

For the purpose of bifurcation, communities being marked above 125 have been classified in Category 1A and those between 90 and 124 have been classified in 1B.

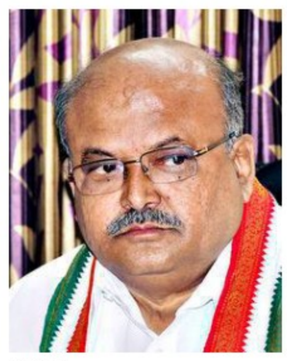
Those between 50 and 89 are considered more backward for Category 2 and those between 20 and 49 are considered as backward for Category 3. Communities scoring below 20 have been considered in general. The range of marking, it is learnt, is between 12 and 147.

Implement caste census report: Cong. OBC leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to counter the Vokkaliga and the Veerashaiva-Lingayats' pressure to prevent the implementation of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey recommendations, a group of Congress leaders from backward classes on Wednesday urged the government to accept the recommendation and appealed against emotional outbursts against the survey report.

Through a veiled response to the misgivings expressed by the two dominant communities and their narrative of the report being termed as 'unscientific', the Congress leaders said that there was no need to politicise a scientific report even before it has become public. The leaders from Tigalas, Kurubas, Ganigas, Devangas, Edigas, Yadavas and Balijas, communities that are in big numbers among the backward classes, defended the survey, and


H.M. Revanna

said the numbers were more or less accurate.

Their press conference came on the eve of a special Cabinet meeting on Thursday where the survey findings will be discussed. Already the Vokkaliga and the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Ministers and elected representatives have indicated that they could oppose the implementation citing discrepancy in their population figures.

"It is not correct to oppose the scientific report. The survey was advertised twice for people to know. If we believe all the communities' claims, then the State's population should have been 50 crore," said chairman of guarantees Implementation Committee H.M. Revanna. "There is still scope for rectification of minor mistakes in the report if any," he maintained.

Former chairman of Legislative Council V.R. Sudarshan said that the government could set up a Cabinet sub-committee to study the report, and urged the government to convene a special legislature session to discuss the report. "Make the report public so that a debate can take place. There is no need to incite the public emotionally."

Urging the government to accept and send the report to the Centre, former Minister M.R. Seetharam said that the increased reservation should be notified in the 9th Schedule by the Centre. M. Nagaraj Yadav, MLC, said that the report assumes importance as the Supreme Court has been seeking empirical data for all issues pertaining to reservation.

MUDA case: High Court issues notice to Siddaramaiah

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife B.M. Parvathi, and others on an appeal filed by social activist Snehamayi Krishna, who has questioned a single judge's judgement rejecting his plea to transfer to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) the probe into illegalities in allotment of sites by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, which briefly heard the arguments by Mr. Krishna's advocates, has adjourned further hearing till April 28. A single-judge Bench on February 7, 2025, dismissed Mr. Krishna's plea for transferring the probe to the CBI.

Meanwhile, the Bench also ordered issuance of notice to the State and the Union governments, the CBI, the Lokayukta police, B.M. Mallikarjuna Swamy, brother of Ms. Parvathi, and Devaraju J., who had sold three acres and 16 guntas of land to Mr. Swamy after getting it denotified from MUDA.

On the single judge's finding that Mr. Krishna could not have sought transfer of probe to the CBI when he himself had sought a probe by the Lokayukta police in his complaint lodged before the special court of sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs in the MUDA case,

it has contended in the appeal that he had no option to make such a plea before the special court as it had no jurisdiction to refer the probe to CBI. It is only the High Court which can refer the investigation to the CBI, it has been pointed out in the appeal.

While giving a finding that the Lokayukta is an independent institution, the single judge had failed to note that police personnel and officers, attached to the Lokayukta police wing, are merely sent on deputation to the Lokayukta and their administrative control still remains with the State government.

When the State government has the administrative control even over the police personnel and officers deputed to the Lokayukta, the possibility of interference by the State government, headed by the CM, who is an accused in MUDA case, cannot be ruled out, and hence Lokayukta police wing cannot be termed as an independent investigating agency, it has been contended in the appeal.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Dr. M.S. Nagarajan (90)
Prof. & HOD English
Dept. University of Madras (Retd.)
Attained heavenly abode on 16th April 2025 at his residence
His wife preceeded him
Deeply mourned by:
Daughters: Raji Janaheeraman, Lalitha Ramachandran, Sugantha Ravichander
Meenakumari Jawanth, Sons-in-Law, Grand Children & Great Grand Children
Raji: 8220 303317, Lalitha: 81698 17125

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

PUBLIC NOTICE

All those concerned are hereby notified that my client, Ms. Ritu Subash Cipy, daughter of Subash Cipy residing at Plot No.11 Ritu Bunga, Gowri Park Society, Aundh Road Pune- 411007, who is sole and the absolute owner and khathedra in lawful possession of the immovable property described in the SCHEDULE below and herein after referred to as the SCHEDULE PROPERTY has irretrievably lost the mother deed of the Schedule Property being the sale deed dated 7th December 2011 bearing registration number INR-1-01146-2011-12, and that she lodged Lost Report No. 1561732/2025 with Police Unit: Bangalore City on the 12th April 2025. If any person/s is in the possession of the said registered sale deed, or has acknowledge of the whereabouts of the said registered sale deed or has any legally enforce right, title or interest of the Schedule Property, he/she/they shall intimate the same in writing with documentary proof/ evidence substantiating such information/ claim or valid objection with seven days from the date of publication of this notice, and if no written intimation as above is received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that there are no valid objection/claim over the Schedule Property whatsoever, and then my client shall be at liberty to deal with the Schedule Property in any manner she deems fit and if there is no charges/ claims/ objections or encumbrances on the

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the site bearing No.91 with building with BBMP PID NO.74-153-1 and New e-PID Nol 33593425000 at HAL 3rd stage, New Thippasandra, Bangalore with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and measuring East to West= 25 feet, and North to South= 50 feet, having a total area of 1250 Square feet and bounded on the East by Property No 68/2 (No.90) of Chandrashekar Y. Patil, West By- Property No. 91/1 of Shakirunnisa: North by- Remaining portion of the larger extent of the land originally bearing Survey No- 35/1 and South by- Road. This property is within the limits of the Ward NO. 58- Hosa Thippasandra of the Bruhat Bengalur Mahanagara Palike.

Dated 14th April 2025, Bangalore
Sd/-
J. Venkitesh Pai, MBA., LLB,
Advocate. No. 83, 5th Main Road Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore-560038

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

SWM.C.No.A7/1360/2025 **Short E-Tender Notice**

E-Tender is invited for the work of Deployment of manpower and provide Rotomac Bin and 1100 litre capacity Compactor Bin for solid waste management activities in Tamil Nadu Habitat Development Board tenements on contract basis for a period of nine months for following zones by Superintending Engineer (SWM) in Solid Waste Management Department

Description	Estimate cost	EMD Amount
SWM.C.No.A7/1360/2025 Zone 6 to 10	**Rs.9.16 crores**	**Rs.9.16 lakhs**
Tender submission online last date	: **28.04.2025 at 3.00 pm**	
Tender opening date	: **29.04.2025 at 4.00 pm**	

Tenderer can view and download the details of E-Tender from website http://tntenders.gov.in and may participate in tender EMD Amount should be pay online payment through E-tender portal details given in Tender Document

DIPR / 1591 / Tender / 2025 **Superintending Engineer (SWM)**

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.KMP/HS/SWM/C&D/Machinery/19/2024-25 Date: 15.04.2025

:: E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

Under the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Rules 2000, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Corporation invites tenders from eligible bidders for the work mentioned below. Tenders are invited through e-procurement for the following services.

1) Details of Work/Service: Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Trail Run of 50 TPD C & D Waste Processing Plant in Khandal village, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 2) Indent Numbers: DMA/2024-25/ IND4076/ CALL-3, 3) Tendered amount: **2,04,00,000/-,** 4) **Dates fixed for tender:** 1. Pre Bid Meeting Date : 21.04.2025 Time : 11.00am, 2. Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications Date : 22.04.2025 Time : 4.30pm, 3. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date : 26.04.2025 Time : 4.30pm, 4. Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date : 28.04.2025 Time : 11.00am, 5. Last Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date : 30.04.2025 Time : 11.30am

CORRIGENDUM TO THE TENDER NOTIFICATION DATED: 11.04.2025

1) Details of Work/Service: Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Trail Run of 50 TPD C & D Waste Processing Plant in Khandal village, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 2) Indent Numbers: DMA/2024-25/ IND4076/ CALL-3, 3) Tendered amount: **2,04,00,000/-,** 4) **Corrigendum Dates fixed for tender:** 1. Pre Bid Meeting Date : 28.04.2025 Time : 11.00am, 2. Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications Date : 29.04.2025 Time : 4.30pm, 3. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date : 03.05.2025 Time : 4.30pm, 4. Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date : 05.05.2025 Time : 11.00am, 5. Last Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date : 07.05.2025 Time : 11.30am

• More details about EMD is available in e-procurement. • For more details: Assistant Executive Engineer (Env) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike can be contacted.• Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Kalaburagi/37/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer (Env) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi**

Heat island push to city's scorching summer temperature

Research shows that the temperature within the Urban Heat Island areas could be 3 to 5 degrees higher than the surroundings, dramatically worsening citizens' lives

Hard days ahead: It is mid-April now, and the enhanced Urban Heat Island effect could take the intense heat to record levels this month. The hottest day of the year on March 14 at 35.4°C could just be the start. K. MURALI KUMAR

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

On a record-breaking spree, the scorching summer heat in Bengaluru feels particularly intense this year for a specific reason: Its Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect has gotten worse, amplified by a widening network of white-topped roads, tree-less layouts, glass-façade highrises and heat-absorbing infra projects. The hottest day of the year on March 14 at 35.4°C could just be the start.

It is mid-April now and the enhanced UHI effect could take the intense heat to record levels this month. Last year, the maximum for the month had hit 38.5° C, less than a degree lower than the highest-ever temperature recorded for April in Bengaluru city: 39.2° C on April 25, 2016. The city's once-celebrated green cover has depleted dramatically, trapping heat in more localised areas than ever before.

Typically, the UHI effect retains heat within urban areas and halts its dissipation. Heat-absorbing material in both buildings and concrete infrastructure aids this phenomenon significantly. Research shows that the temperature within the UHI areas could be 3 to 5 degrees higher than the surroundings, dramatically worsening citizens' lives. Bengaluru's continuing loss of trees and water bodies has only aggravated this trend.

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL)' s Namma Metro Phase 3 Detailed Project Report (DPR) has lined up a total of 11,137 trees to be felled, making way for two corridors of 44.65 km. But, as environmentalist and legal activist Dattatreya Devare says, there is no information about the location of these trees.

Replacement plantation

Compensatory plantation is the standard response for the loss of tree cover due to infrastructure projects. But Devare contends that these plants should be planted on the roadside and not in Nelamangala, Gouribidanur or Kolar. "Every quarter, the BMRCL was supposed to submit a report to the court on the compensatory tree plantation for the number of trees cut. They did not submit for almost one and a half years. On a court order, they last submitted a report in September 2024. Two quarters are over now, we are constantly reminding them," he explains.

The agencies, he points out, argue that there is no space in the city. "I told them there is enough space on the roadsides. Finally, after our continuous efforts, the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) gave an affidavit in the court that in 2025-26, they will plant some 50,000 saplings which can now be taken by BMRCL. Let us see what they do, we are after them."

Heat Wave Action Plan

Decades of research, both domestic and global, have clearly established the link between green cover and urban temperatures. There is also an existing blueprint on preparatory measures, as articulated by the Karnataka State Heat Wave Action Plan 2023-24. Under city-level medium/long-term measures, the Plan mandates a heat wave risk and vulnerability map for developing a strategic mitigation action plan.

Mapping hot spots within the city and integrating them into vulnerability assessment is also part of this plan. It also mandates measures to reduce the temperature in these hot spots by developing vertical gardens, small parks with a water fountain and other allied features. The plan further seeks to build an environmental assessment through the coordination of different research and educational institutions. Findings from this assessment should then be incorporated into urban planning design policies to curb future emergence of Urban Heat Islands, says the Heat Wave Action Plan.

Porous landscape

Tracking Bengaluru's land use patterns for decades, the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) shows the city's drastic decline in green cover.

The share of the city's porous landscape (vegetation and water bodies) dropped from 68.2 per cent in 1973 to merely 6.02 per cent in 2025. During the same period, as indicated in the Bengaluru Urban Information System portal, the share of paved landscape (buildings, roads, etc) went up from 7.97 per cent to 87.64 per cent.

This stark trend is getting manifested in two clear observations, notes Dr. T.V. Ramachandra from CES, IISc, "No groundwater recharge is happening due to the dominance of paved surface. Since the landscape is not holding any water, there is also a heat increase in the system.

The city's temperature, which was around 19 degrees in the 1990s increased to 22 degrees in the 2000s and 28 degrees in the 2010s. Today, it is about 36 to 38 degrees," he explains.

However, as one moves away from the city centre in any direction, the temperature is at least two to three degrees lower in regions with water bodies and parks. He cites the case of Sarakki Lake, rejuvenated about three years ago. "Within a year, the groundwater table there improved by 300ft. Last year, when the entire city was facing a water crisis and higher temperatures, the lake had enough water, and the groundwater table was less than 500ft. Besides, the high moisture content ensured that the temperature in that region was at least 2-3 degrees lower than the other parts of the city."

Within a year of the rejuvenation of Sarakki Lake three years ago, the groundwater table there improved by 300 feet. Last year, when the entire city was facing a water crisis and higher temperatures, the lake had enough water, and the groundwater table was less than 500 feet. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

A flower vendor uses an umbrella to protect herself from the intense heat in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Glass façade buildings

Glass façade buildings, a preferred choice at many tech parks and office complexes, are known to increase heat radiation in the surrounding areas. Dr Ramachandra draws attention to another oft-ignored factor: Higher electricity consumption. "In a normal building, if the consumption is 1,400 units per person per year, inside a glass façade building, it increases to 14,000 to 17,000 units. The consumption is 10 times higher, contributing to global warming which inevitably increases temperature."

As reiterated in a study by Curtin University, elevated temperatures due to UHI effects can affect the thermal comfort of humans. This can potentially lead to heat strokes, respiratory difficulties, heat cramps, dehydration, and even heat-related mortalities. Among the particularly vulnerable are children, aged people and those with health concerns. Elevated night temperatures could lead to further heat stress.

In January 2025, an Institute of Wood Sciences and Technology seminar themed 'From Concrete to Canopy: Urban Forestry for Greener Cities' had highlighted the need to look at urban green infrastructure as a holistic system. Retired IFS officer Dr.K.N. Murthy emphasised the need to interlink green patches throughout the city and be made part of the planning process.

He had stressed visiting every tree in the city at regular intervals for maintenance, while recommending vertical green cover for buildings with glass facades to reduce the heating impact. Other speakers had drawn attention to the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard mandating 9sqmt of urban green space for every person.

VVCE and Incture sign agreement

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE) and Incture Technologies, which provides digital and AI solutions, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

As part of the agreement, Incture will provide training to 60 engineering students of the sixth semester on Java Full Stack and React.

The company has also assured placements to the trained students.

VVCE principal Mr. Sadashive Gowda, in a press release here, said the MoU will bridge the gap between academia and industry as the collaboration provides hands-on experience in cutting-edge technologies.

Mr. Veera Reddy Patlolla, head of people and culture, emphasised the importance of industry-aligned training programmes in preparing students for the competitive job market.

The release noted that the collaboration marks a step towards enhancing the employability of students and fostering innovation through skill development.

State focusing on mainstreaming climate actions to boost sustainability, create jobs

BBMP has prepared the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan, comprising over 270 actionable points. The roadmap to address climate change impacts includes afforestation targets of 50,000 hectares under a foundation that enables CSR participation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka is taking significant strides towards sustainability by creating jobs in the recycling sector and promoting innovative design and manufacturing, opined speakers at a conference organised by Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce on "ESG Resilient Future: Creating Sustainable and Adaptive Business" in Bengaluru recently.

According to participants, these initiatives are not only generating employment but also contributing to environmental well-being by reducing pollution and ecological degradation linked to mining, across the State.

In a special address, T. Mahesh, Director - Administration, Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Government of Karnataka, said the departmental schemes/programmes were mainstreamed with climate actions identified in the Karnataka State Action Plan for Climate Change with 10 key sectors with clear performance indicators.

A "Green Index Portal" is developed to evaluate public schemes and programmes against environmental benchmarks. Additionally, a voluntary emission disclosure scheme for industries and other significant sectors was initiated, and CSR support was sought to take it forward, according to him.

Speakers at the conference on 'ESG Resilient Future: Creating Sustainable and Adaptive Business', spoke of the need to embed sustainability into the DNA of business strategies right from rethinking product design and manufacturing processes to investing in circularity, clean energy, and biodiversity.

Climate Action Plan

Mr. Mahesh said, the BBMP has prepared the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan at the City level, comprising over 270 actionable points. The 2025-26 roadmap to address climate change impacts includes afforestation targets of 50,000 hectares under a new foundation that enables CSR participation.

Speaking at the conclave, Srinu Babu Matta, Head - Project Planning & Infra Development and Sustainability, Tata Motors Smart City Mobility Solutions, said, "Sustainability and adaptability are no longer optional; they are fundamental to the future of any business operating in today's dynamic environment. We need to embed sustainability into the DNA of our strategies right from rethinking product design and manufacturing processes to investing in circularity, clean energy, and biodiversity."

Mr. Matta further said, his company's experience showed that integrating sustainability into business scorecards, embedding it within daily operations, and aligning it with community impact yields tangible benefits, including greater efficiency, heightened brand equity, and a workforce prepared for the future.

Transformative action

Innovation, data-driven decision-making, and stakeholder collaboration were key enablers in this journey, he asserted. But beyond strategy and execution lies a deeper responsibility to serve not just shareholders, but the society and ecosystems we are part of.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 17, 1975

Urs Gives Details of Tumkur Clash

Bangalore, April 16: The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs told the State Legislative Council today that Rs. 25,000 worth of property were either damaged or destroyed, ten huts were burnt and 17 persons were injured in the communal clash which occurred on Ugadi day (April 12) at Tumkur about 70 km from here.

Mr. Urs said that out of 40 persons arrested, 27 had been remanded to judicial custody and 109 cases had been registered. A petty quarrel between two persons belonging to different communities over a land dispute sparked off violence.

Maharashtra's Kannada Policy

Bangalore, April 16: The Karnataka Education Minister, Mr. Mallikarjunaswamy, informed the State Legislative Council today that the Maharashtra Government had informed Karnataka that Kannada was one of the mediums of instruction in primary and secondary schools in Maharashtra and that there was no change of policy. Making a statement in response to a calling attention notice of Mr. S. Sivapara (Cong), Mr. Mallikarjunaswamy said the Maharashtra.

The government had also told Karnataka that it was not possible for it to adopt Kannada as one of the media of instruction. The reasons given by it were that none of the universities in Maharashtra had adopted Kannada as the medium of instruction and the number of Kannada-speaking students was not large.

Flying discs and fun in the sun

India's national frisbee championship was recently held in Bengaluru. A low-down on the sport...

Abhilekh Baruah

Catch me if you can Players enjoy Ultimate Frisbee at different venues. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India Ultimate recently hosted the National Open and Women's Championship 2025 for frisbee in Bengaluru. The event saw 39 teams from 10 cities, featuring over 700 athletes competing in the Open, Women's and Challenger Open divisions.

Primarily played on grass or sand, at both the world stage and in India, the action takes place on a stretch of land roughly the length and breadth of a football field. Two rectangle spaces at both ends of the field, are the end zones and scoring area.

Alex Sebastian, CEO of India Ultimate headquartered in Bengaluru, highlighted the technicalities of the game. "You have have to pass a disc between your teammates and get it in the end zone to score. It is a lot like American football with a mix of basketball and football in terms of how the game is played."

The game also allows for substitution of the entire team with a fresh set of players on the field.

Though the rules for grass and beach (as the ones played on sand are referred to) championships are similar, there are some differences; a team for grass needs seven players, while five players comprise a beach team. Similarly, a beach game goes on for 45 minutes with the winners scoring 13 points, while games on grass have a 100-minute duration with 15 points needed to win.

Self sufficient

In Ultimate, each player is also a referee. "If there is a foul or something that requires referee intervention, the players discuss it among themselves and come to a conclusion on what has to be done. They have 30 seconds to resolve this – an exercise that imparts a lot of life skills to players," says Alex.

At the end of a match, both teams sit together in a "spirit circle" to briefly discuss or resolve issues if any. Each team also rates the other on five different parameters such as communication, positive mindset and self control, which is also known as the "spirit score".

At the end of a tournament, the Spirit of The Game or SOTG Award is conferred on a team based on the spirit score they were given by their opponents.

Late start and challenges

India Ultimate was established in 2012 as the registered Flying Disc Sports Federation for India. It is a volunteer and player-run organisation, helmed by either active or retired players, and there are almost 80 clubs across the country.

"We are at a nascent stage compared to many other countries which took up this sport earlier. We are trying to build a base; hopefully, we will be ready in time to qualify for the 2029 World Games," says Alex.

"Ultimate frisbee is still relatively unknown in India. We need more exposure – media coverage and social media campaigns, as well as integration into school and college sports programs," says coach Mrinalini Siddhartha from Coimbatore.

"To raise awareness about Ultimate, we need to start at the grassroots – student programs, community outreach, and consistent media coverage. However, for real, sustained growth, official recognition of the sport by the government is crucial. It would provide access to quality sports facilities, funding, and logistical support for tournaments, especially at local and state levels," says Bengaluru-based athlete and coach Prasanna Krishna Poojary.

According to Hina Nainani, Communications and Partnerships lead at India Ultimate Ahmedabad, getting a field to host the championship is quite difficult. "In India, getting that kind of space to play is quite challenging, so we had to host the championships about 30-35 kilometres outside the city," added Alex.

Although there are small sponsorships, most domestic or international tournaments are self-funded by the players. As a result, a lot of talented players lose out on showcasing their skills at world events.

Mixed bag

Being a non-contact sport, frisbee also allows for players of all genders to participate, but while that is democratic in theory, reality throws a harsh light on what transpires on the field at times.

"Mixed-gender play is a unique quality of this game and we've come a long way from the initial 6:1 ratio to having equal gender representation on the field. However, as a community, we must actively ensure equality – this means holding teams accountable for truly inclusive play," says Prasanna.

Hina Nainani highlighted the inclusive practices in India Ultimate, "In mixed-gender, the female players are mostly named for sake. India Ultimate changed it to have one male and one female captain. Being a self-refereed sport, it gives women an opportunity to speak for themselves, as well as the confidence to be leaders".

Highlighting the struggles in mixed gender play, Mrinalini points out, "Women in mixed-gender Ultimate face a number of challenges such as needing to prove themselves constantly or receiving different levels of feedback compared to men."

In 2025, the Men's and Women's teams will represent India at the Asian Championships to be held at Japan in September. India will also be represented by the Mixed Team at the World Beach Championships to be held in Portugal this year.

CITYBEATS

Rustic scenario

APRIL 19

A solo show, featuring the works of artist, Satish Multhalli will open on April 19. Titled *Ethos Of A Rural Life*, the exhibition has been curated by Shirley Mathew. Satish's works depict his love for his land and the people within, leading to a representation of their lifestyle that includes impressions of idealised objects in a village. The exhibition will continue till April 30.

At MKF Museum Of Art, Lavelle Road, from 11am and 6.30pm. Entry free. Monday closed.

Crusty bites

ONGOING

Third Wave Coffee has launched an all-new range of pizzas, which are freshly baked and offer innovative flavour combinations. The menu includes the classic Margherita, veg bonanza, Mexican paneer and tandoori chicken. The pizzas are priced ₹150 upwards and can be enjoyed along with a variety of beverages.

Available across all Third Wave Coffee outlets and online as well.

Message on a string

APRIL 19

The Birthday Party: A Joyful Puppet Show, is aimed at promoting inclusion and life skills through art, and had been organised to celebrate Autism Awareness Month, by Colours Centre for Learning (a Bengaluru-based NGO committed to autism education and inclusion since 2015). The event is a puppet show designed to entertain, educate and empower.

This fund-raiser show begins at 12pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Mapping life's inner journey

Sutapa Dey

Deep dive Krishna Kumar Marayil (centre) at the book launch. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Almost all of us are part of a few Whatsapp groups whether we want to be there or not. But, what began as a playful conversation among a Whatsapp group of friends from IIT, slowly evolved into an exploration of life's choices, a meditation on ambition, the quiet search for meaning and the inevitable crossroads we all face.

Corporate leader, entrepreneur and founder and master coach of the Intrad School of Executive Coaching, Krishna Kumar Marayil, recently launched his debut book, *Crossing the Rubicon*.

Talking about his foray into writing Krishna says, "Though I was passionate about writing, I never thought I'd be an author, and I still don't know if I am one. But like most things in my life, this book just happened."

Krishna quit the corporate world to become an entrepreneur and a tennis coach; he is now a guest faculty at IIM Bangalore.

About the book

Crossing the Rubicon is a blend of prose and poetry inspired by life, coaching conversations and musings from long walks and late-night chats. The soul of the story is in its two main characters – the Old Monk and the Chief who carries the narrative.

According to Krishna, the Old Monk was shaped by fragments of wisdom gathered from mentors, coincidental encounters and wise strangers, and can be described as a wandering philosopher, part mirror, part guide. "The Old Monk is the kind of person you meet if you are truly looking, someone who doesn't just give you answers, but helps you to see your own reflection more clearly," he says.

Meanwhile, the Chief, reflecting the author's own journey and his interactions with people, is ambitious, driven, successful, but at the same time, searching for the real version of himself. "Between the Old Monk and the Chief, I am the Chief, because it is a character people can relate to. Every one of us is a Chief, a person chasing their goal but also wondering if the ladder is against the wrong wall."

Krishna adds that the Chief is someone readers will instantly recognise, perhaps in themselves.

The author's love for literature is what made him title the book, *Crossing the Rubicon,* drawing from Julius Caesar's historic decision to cross the Rubicon river, considered a point of no return. For Krishna, the phrase symbolises those moments when we must risk everything to pursue our dreams.

> Every one of us has a personal Rubicon to cross. The main thing is to take the plunge, because regret is always heavier than failure.
>
> **KRISHNA KUMAR MARAYIL**
> Author

"Every one of us has a personal Rubicon to cross. For me, writing a book was that Rubicon. I always wanted to write a book, but didn't have the right motivation. For some it might be quitting a job, facing an uncomfortable truth or following their passion. The main thing is to take the plunge, because regret is always heavier than failure."

This book, a gentle nudge off the edge of comfort, asks readers only one question- "Do you dare to cross your Rubicon?"

From poetry to prose

The biggest challenge Krishna faced while writing the book was making the shift from poetry to prose. Having spent years crafting narrative poems, where every word carried a meaning and stories were condensed into few lines, Krishna found the transition to prose demanding.

He recalls, "In poetry, I was always compressing material, trying to put a lot into a few words." However, prose required the opposite. "It was intellectually challenging and physically exhausting as prose demanded expanding on thoughts, building scenes and looking for details." He admits he took time to adjust to the change but once a few chapters were written, he found his rhythm.

Highlighting a line from the book, when the Chief says, "But there are times nowadays when I feel like I'm stumbling in the wrong direction. That I am gradually losing my way, and something is missing in my plan. How do I again start believing that I am on the right way?" Krishna says it echoes his own musings and adds that he believes it will resonate with readers too.

When asked why his book was not an autobiography, but a work of fiction, Krishna says the genre is what he describes as creative non-fiction; it captures the essence of a narrative that blends motivation with self-exploration. "It is a journey inward, laced with reflections meant to inspire."

Talking about the possibility of a sequel, Krishna shares that he has two more stories in mind and envisions turning them into a trilogy.

Crossing the Rubicon *is available in bookstores and online.*

Lens and legacy

The Museum of Art and Photography Bengaluru invites you to 'Vaanyerum Vizhuthugal: Roots that Reach the Sky', a group exhibition spotlighting contemporary photography by Tamil-origin artistes.

Curated by artist Jaisingh Nageswaran, this exhibition, originally part of the Chennai Photo Biennale 2024-2025, marks the museum's first group show centred on photography and visual storytelling.

On April 19, join two guided exhibition walks offering unique insights. At 11.30am, Arnika Ahldag, Director of Exhibitions & Curation at MAP, leads the first session, unpacking the thematic undercurrents and artistic contributions on display.

Evocative An exhibit at 'Vaanyerum Vizhuthugal: Roots that Reach the Sky. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Later, at 4pm, curator Jaisingh will walk visitors through the exhibition, sharing behind-the-scenes curatorial stories and the intent behind this powerful gathering of voices.

As an art historian, Arnika's interests cover the representation of labour in Indian contemporary art, institutional critique, exhibition histories and archives.

She also holds a PhD from the School of Arts and Aesthetics at JNU and an MA from University College in London, UK and Albert Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany.

Both sessions take place at the Axis Bank Gallery on MAP's third floor. The day culminates with an informal meet and greet with participating artistes at 5pm on the Cumulus terrace restaurant, offering visitors a chance to interact directly with the creators.

A collaboration between Goethe-Institut Chennai and Chennai Photo Biennale, *Vaanyerum Vizhuthugal* showcases 12 artists, who challenge the boundaries of lens-based practices and offer grounded, diverse perspectives rooted in Tamil identity.

On April 19 at MAP. Admission is free (registration required). Accessibility: ISL support, hearing loops, and other accessible facilities available. For assistance, write to access@map-india.org. For other details log on to map-india.org.

Money laundering case: ED arrests former MD of KBDC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Wednesday said that it has made a second arrest in the money laundering case linked to alleged fund irregularities in the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC).

R. Leelavathy, former Managing Director of the KBDC, was arrested under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, on Saturday, according to an official release. Earlier, the agency arrested B.K. Nagarajappa, former General Manager of KBDC, who is currently in the ED custory.

Fake accounts

According to the release, during the investigation, it was found that Ms. Leelavathy was involved in money laundering by creating fake accounts to transfer the funds for personal gain. She was produced before the Special Court for Economic Offences and granted ED custody for seven days. Earlier, the ED conducted search operations at various locations across Bengaluru, including the office of the KBDC located at V.V. Tower, Bengaluru, and the residential premises of the accused.

Proceeds of crime

The ED claimed that it recovered several incriminating documents, digital records, and details of properties acquired out of proceeds of crime generated out of the commission of the offence of money laundering during these raids.

'Diversion of funds'

The ED claimed that during the investigation, it was found that Ms. Leelavathy was instrumental in the diversion of funds from the KBDC by creating bank accounts fraudulently in the names of fake entities in connivance with other suspects and accused, including B.K. Nagarajappa (the then General Manager of KBDC), Subbappa (the then superintendent of KBDC), and others.

"They managed to divert funds from the accounts of the KBDC to the accounts of fake entities and fake beneficiaries, which were further transferred to friends and family members of the accused. The investigation further revealed that several bank accounts were opened, and many beneficiaries and intended beneficiaries were cheated by adopting a very well-designed and foolproof modus operandi by B.K. Nagarajappa, Ms. Leelavathi, Subbappa, and others," the ED said.

"Based on the evidence gathered during the course of investigation, it was confirmed that Ms. Leelavathy was also involved in money laundering and has generated and layered the same using bank accounts of sister Late Mangala Ramu and integrated the funds in the bank accounts of her friends and family members through bogus entities created for this purpose," the ED said.

'Be vigilant against BJP efforts to destabilise Karnataka govt.'

'Wherever the Congress is in power, they are hatching conspiracies to topple them,' says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other leaders at the inauguration of a mega job fair in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. ARUN KULKARNI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called upon Congress leaders in Karnataka to remain vigilant against what he described as "intimidating politics" by the BJP's central leadership, besides accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of orchestrating efforts to destabilise the Karnataka government.

"Wherever the Congress is in power, they [BJP national leadership] are hatching conspiracies to topple them. The same effort is on in Karnataka also. Our [Congress] people should be careful of it. Whatever differences you [Congress leaders] may have, you should be united," Mr. Kharge said at a public meeting in Kalaburagi on Wednesday.

The event was organised by the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood to inaugurate a mega job fair by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Referring to the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the *National Herald* case indicting Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Mr. Kharge said that the Congress would not be cowed down by the BJP's threatening tactics.

"You [the BJP] think that we [Congress] will bend if you unleash an ED attack. You must understand that Congress will never bend to your threatening tactics. Neither Ms. Gandhi nor Mr. Gandhi are scared of your actions. They have lost two members of their family for the country, and yet they are with the people," Mr. Kharge said.

"You [the BJP] are unleashing an attack against the institution that did so much for the country. It is a shameful act. Did you donate to the *National Herald*? Your paper is *Organiser* [mouthpiece of RSS], which is polluting the people's minds and has never done anything to unite the country. It is the three newspapers started by Mr. Nehru which did a lot to unite the country," he said.

Protect Kancha Gachibowli 'forest', SC tells Telangana

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Telangana Wildlife Warden to take immediate steps to protect the wildlife affected by the destruction of 100 acres of the Kancha Gachibowli "forest" area. It told the State government that it could not have "high-rises in the company of deer".

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih made it clear to the Telangana government that not a single more tree must be felled in the area.

Justice Gavai said the State would be inviting an order from the Supreme Court to send its officials responsible for the deforestation to a temporary jail in the "very same spot" destroyed by bulldozers if it dared to justify the destruction. "If you [the State] try to justify, then prison. Better course would be to come up with a plan to restore the forest," Justice Gavai addressed senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Sravan Kumar, for the State of Telangana. Mr. Singhvi agreed with the court that the first task was now to restore the forest.

Justice Gavai said the court wanted employment and development, but not at the cost of the environment. "We are not concerned with 'A' government or 'B' government. Here, we are only concerned with the deployment of dozens of bulldozers to destroy 100 acres in just three days," Justice Gavai said.

Mr. Singhvi had denied the land was a forest.

"The process might have gone on for many months, but the bulldozers came in 3 days. Remember, if you want your Chief Secretary or Secretaries to be saved from severe action, you have to come out with a plan to restore the 100 acres," Justice Gavai said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Bihar, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.0	25.0	Kozhikode	—	36.4	27.3
Ahmedabad	—	41.9	27.0	Kurnool	—	38.9	27.0
Aizawl	0.6	30.7	19.8	Lucknow	—	37.4	24.4
Allahabad	—	39.0	24.4	Madurai	—	38.8	26.7
Bengaluru	—	32.8	20.5	Mangaluru	—	34.0	25.4
Bhopal	—	39.8	26.0	Mumbai	—	33.8	24.1
Bhubaneswar	—	34.8	23.6	Mysuru	—	35.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	37.0	24.5	New Delhi	—	39.1	23.4
Chennai	47.2	31.7	29.2	Patna	—	35.1	24.4
Coimbatore	—	36.2	23.9	Port Blair	11	29.5	24.9
Dehradun	—	34.2	20.8	Puducherry	—	34.3	27.3
Gangtok	5	22.4	12.5	Pune	—	43.0	24.6
Goa	—	36.0	27.0	Raipur	—	38.5	23.6
Guwahati	—	33.2	20.6	Ranchi	15	31.8	17.9
Hubballi	—	39.0	22.0	Shillong	2	22.3	15.2
Hyderabad	0.3	37.0	23.6	Shimla	—	27.1	17.2
Imphal	—	29.7	20.1	Srinagar	—	26.1	11.6
Jaipur	—	39.0	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	27.2
Kochi	—	32.6	26.6	Tiruchi	—	37.7	26.4
Kohima	7	21.9	15.2	Vijayawada	1	37.2	26.0
Kolkata	—	34.6	26.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.9	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	—	.30	139	118	Moderate
Bengaluru	6	33	.34	141	117	Moderate
Chennai	.10	29	.39	49	51	Good
Delhi	.18	108	.56	194	251	Poor
Hyderabad	4	38	.32	77	69	Good
Kolkata	8	31	.23	84	87	Good
Lucknow	6	38	.24	120	208	Poor
Mumbai	2	29	.27	72	105	Moderate
Pune	.46	11	102	267	—	Poor
Visakhapatnam	.14	39	.13	88	150	Moderate

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Banswara, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 302 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Estd. by Govt. of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Shahbad Daulatpur, Bawana Road, Delhi 110042

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR B.DES & M.DES PROGRAMMES 2025-26

Delhi Technological University invites applications for admission in Bachelor of Design (B.Des) & Master of Design (M.Des) Programmes for the academic session 2025-26. Application form for admission is available online w.e.f. 16.04.2025 (Wednesday), 10:00 AM onwards and till 15.05.2025, 11:59 midnight at the University's website: **www.dtu.ac.in.** Admission Brochures may be downloaded from the University website, **www.dtu.ac.in.** For any query, please mail to **bdes_admission@dtu.ac.in** for B.Des admissions and **mdes_admission@dtu.ac.in** for M.Des admissions or contact at 011-27871017.

Sd/-
Registrar

ODISHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
PANTHANIVAS (OLD BLOCK): LEWIS ROAD: BHUBANESWAR-14
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Letter No. Date: 15.04.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO: BP I/03/2025-26 dt. 15.04.2025

The Superintending Engineer, O.T.D.C. Ltd., Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Managing Director, OTDC Ltd. invites Item rate bids in **Double cover system in ONLINE MODE only from Interested eligible bidders having experience in the relevant field may participate in the tender process, for the work "Upgradation of Light and Sound Show at Konark" on Turnkey Basis at Konark Sun Temple, Puri, Odisha".**

Bid documents such as RFP/DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** during the period as detailed below.

1. Online bids shall be received from **dtd. 22.04.2025 till 17.00 Hours of dtd. 06.05.2025.**
2. The technical bids will be opened in the office of the Superintending Engineer, OTDC Ltd, Bhubaneswar **at 11.30 Hours of dt.07.05.2025.**
3. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
4. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer

CAD-148 OIPR-37002/11/0058/2526

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ARSIKERE.
PH.NO:08174-232201
FAX NO :08174-233274 email add: itstaff_ulb_arasikere@yahoo.com website add : www.arasikerecity..mrc.gov.in
No.CMC/ASK/JE/CR/04/2025-26 Date : 11-04-2025

-:Tender Notification :- (KPPP portal only)

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Arasikere, invites tenders through kppp portal as details below : Sl No: Description 1.DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT38494 Type: General Head of Account IDSMT Fund Estimated Amount (in Lakhs)99.40 E.M.D. Amount (in lakhs)1.69 1.Last date for Submitting of completed tender documents through e-portal is 02/05/2025 upto 17:30 hrs 2.Details can be obtained online through http//www.kppp.portal.gov.in portal

sd/-President, City Municipal Council, Arsikere
sd/- Municipal Commisioner, City Municipal Council, Arsikere

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/21/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **SMT.LALITHA JAIN** W/o Sri.Rajendra Kumar Jain, residing at No.148, 3rd Stage, 3rd Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.153** (CITB/BDA Site No.153), PID No.19-3-153, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South (58+59)/2 ft, in all measuring 2340 Sq.ft., with a building thereon, situated at **3rd Stage, 3rd Block, West of Chord Road, now Basaveshwaranagar,** Bengaluru, within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.100 and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.154
West by : Property bearing No.152
North by : Road
South by : Property bearing No.130

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph: 080-41106508
email: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP only)

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Chintamani DC works/52/2025-26 Dtd:15.04.2025.

Name of the work : "Replacement of existing UGD network along with House Service Connections at Tippu Nagar in Chintamani city under D.C works of CMC, Chintamani." **Indent No. : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT337**

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B)
KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/232/2025-26

Government of Karnataka.
WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
Executive Engineer KNNL,KPC Division No-2 Bhalki
NO: EE/KNNL/KPCD-2/Bhalki/PB/TND/2025-26/39 Date:11-04-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only Through e-procurement System) **In Two cover system**

Tenders in Electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, K P C Division No.2, Bhalki in Two cover systems, from the contractors enrolled in KPWD of Karnataka State who fulfill the qualifying conditions, for the works details mentioned below.The Service Indent are SE0125. The amount put tender and EMD and Class of Contractor as per E-portal Calendar of events: a) The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document 15-04-2025, b) The Last date of Submission of completed tender documents 28-04-2025 at 04.30 Hrs . c) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is 29-04-2025 at 05.00 Hrs & Financial bid i s 02-05-2025 at 11.00 Hrs respectively. All details & information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours and visit website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL,KPC, Division no-2 Bhalki

DIPR/Bidar/16/KSMC&A/2025-26

Forest,Environment & Climate Change Department, Jharkhand.
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Planning, Tribal Area, Ranchi
Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi
Gmail- dcfpta@gmail.com Phone & Fax no. 0651-2481161

Corrigendum
RFP No. 01/2025
Ref. No. PR No. 347263 dt. 25.02.2025

With reference to the Request for Proposal (RFP) No.- 01/2025 (Third Round) for Selection of consultancy firm as PMU to Assist Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HOFF), Jharkhand, Ranchi, due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission of above RFP has been extended up to **21.04.2025** by **2.00** P.M.

Opening of Technical bid & Presentation :- 22.04.2025 11.00 A.M.
Opening of Financial bid :- 23.04.2025 11.00 A.M.

All the other terms and conditions of the RFP does remain unchanged. The updated RFP document along with this notice are available on our website https://forest.jharkhand.gov.in

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Planning, Tribal Area, Ranchi

PR 350498 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes (25-26)_D

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that the residential property, described in the Schedule hereunder, belonging to (1) Mr. **Gopinath Hiremagalur Anantharaman**, s/o. Late HN Anantharaman, r/o. 9G/H, Chez Leila, 9, Moyenville Road, Langford Town, Bangalore-560025; and (2) Mr. **Srinidhi Anantharaman**, s/o. Late HN Anantharaman, r/o. No. 48, 10th A Main Road, 17th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560055, stands mortgaged to **Phoenix IT City Private Limited**, 1335, Road No. 45, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033, Telangana, vide the Deposit of Title Deeds dated 16-03-2019 registered as Document No. 3527/2018-19 in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, to secure payment of the Amounts with interest due from **Makeorbuy Contracting Private Limited**, 204, 2nd Floor, Abhishek Complex, No.259, Sampige Road, 17th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560003, Karnataka; and the original title deeds stand deposited with Phoenix IT City Private Limited.

The general public is hereby cautioned not to deal with the following Schedule Property in any manner. If any individual, concern, firm, LLP, company or anybody whosoever deals with the Schedule Property in any manner, they will be doing so at their own risk and consequences.

Schedule

All that the land admeasuring 7,416 square feet along with residential house and all structures present and future with all rights and easements, privileges, liberties, whatsoever, to the said piece or parcel of land located at Municipal No. 32 (Old) and at present bearing Municipal No. 48 on 17th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-3 (Old) and presently Bangalore-55, bounded by **North**: Site No. 23 (Old) and currently private property; **South**: 17th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, **East**: Road; and **West**: Site No.31 (Old), subsequently by Municipal No. 47 of Mrs. Shakuntala Nadig, Daughter of GA Acharya, and currently by Cloud 9 Hospital, and measuring on that side 103'.

PAVAN KUMAR PIDATALA
SAI TEJA PIDATALA
Advocates,
F2, Krishna Sindhu Residency, 8-2-120/86/2/A&3, Road No. 3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034.Telangana.
eMail: lexxpavan@gmail.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316
ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/16/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–04–2025.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ದತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು ನಗರಸಭೆಯಿಂದ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿ ಮೇಲ್ದರ್ಜೆಗೆರಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ 136 ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ದತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು / ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW. raichurcity .mrc. gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) **ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ:** ಮಹಾ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ:** Estimate for Engageing of Human Resource / Man Power On Outsource Basis for Office Manegment In Raichur City. Estimate Amount Rs. 3,63,84,000/- ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ: DMA/2025-26/SE5142

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/25/KSMCA/25/2025-26

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting RFP (3rd Call)
for
Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC)

Ref No: SHAJ/Tech/Patratu/Nalkari River Bridge/2024/378 Date:16.04.2025

1. State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request for Proposal for Engineering Procurement & Construction basis from eligible bidders for **"Construction of H. L. Bridge over Nalkari River under Patratu Block in Ramgarh District" in the State of Jharkhand.** The approximate cost of the work is Rs. **9.27** Crore.
2. The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request for Proposal (RFP) document for Engineering, Procurement & Construction document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from **21.04.2025 (03:00 P.M.) to 06.05.2025 (upto 12:30 P.M.).**

The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by **06.05.2025 (upto 12:30 PM)** on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website. It will opened on **07.05.2025 (at 12:30 PM).**

3. The contractors are required to submit non-refundable **Tender Fee** of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) & **Bid Security (EMD)** of Rs. 9.27 Lakh (Rs. Nine Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand) only. Tender fees and Earnest money Deposit(EMD) shall be deposited online as per Information technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023.
4. **The cost of the work and Bid Security (EMD) may change.**

Sd/-Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand
Deen Dayal Nagar (Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306,
E-mail: membertechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

PR 350456 (State Highway Authority of Jharkhand)25-26*D

Good news, and bad

As retail inflation ebbs, government must move to improve farmer income

India's March retail inflation was down to a near six-year low of 3.34%, making it almost certain that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will cut its banks' lending rate further over the next few Monetary Policy Committee meetings. The repo rate has already been cut twice in a row, by 25 basis points (bps) each, in February and April, bringing it down from 6.5% to 6%, signalling the emphasis on growth, amid global trade uncertainties, as the RBI's concern over non-core inflation eases. Vegetable prices have plummeted over the past four months from the highs of October 2024, when food inflation peaked at 10.87%, the highest since November 2013. Food inflation in March fell to 2.69% aided by a contraction in the prices of vegetables (-7.04%), eggs (-3.16%) and pulses (-2.73%). The repo rate reduction has already begun translating into lower interest on bank loans. In normal times, this would translate into greater capital flows into businesses, thereby raising jobs, incomes and consumption. But it comes at a time of dampening investor confidence: U.S.-led tariff uncertainty is forcing exporters to scramble for newer markets, amid a concern over near-term demand contraction, as America has been India's largest buyer of merchandise goods since fiscal year 2022. Easing inflation could raise domestic consumption and India's sluggish industrial production.

What must concern policymakers more should be the steep fall in food prices, as this means lower farmer incomes, directly impacting rural consumption demand. Last December, the government procured eight tonnes of tomatoes in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, as prices in the local market plummeted to ₹1 a kilogram. In February this year, in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, an 80% fall in tomato prices forced farmers to dump produce or use them as cattle feed. A 2022 study by the Ministry of Food Processing pegged India's post-harvest loss at a whopping ₹1.52 trillion annually, ranging between 6% to 15% of produce depending on the crop and region. This is due to widespread shortages in cold storage facilities and temperature-controlled transport for perishables, and market inaccessibility for farmers. A significant 86% of Indian farmers make a living from less than two hectares of land. A 2021-22 NABARD survey pegged average monthly agricultural household income at ₹13,661. A more comprehensive NSSO 2019 survey estimates this to be ₹10,218. These figures are lower than those in other emerging economies such as China, Mexico and Brazil for the corresponding years. While rural consumption has been rising since the COVID-19 pandemic years, monthly per capita consumption expenditure for rural areas in fiscal 2024 was ₹4,122, while in urban areas, it was ₹6,996, indicating the significant gap that must be viewed as an opportunity, at a time when export growth is expected to be sluggish.

Monsoon anticipation

Despite prediction of normal rainfall, India must be ready for extremes

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given a reassuring signal that from June to September, India is likely to receive 'above normal' monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm. Were this to pan out as projected, it would be a second consecutive year of 'above normal' rains. Last year, India received 8% more monsoon rain than what is typical from June to September. This is good news for *kharif* sowing, which will help improve stocks of grain and shore up reserves for exports. This year the government has also committed to procure, at the minimum support prices, pulses in an attempt to reduce the import bill. As pulses are a more land-intensive crop than cereal, good rains are essential for an adequate harvest. The IMD follows a two-stage system of monsoon forecasts: the first in April, followed by an update in mid-May, which has additional information on rainfall distribution. These are regularly updated monthly, alongside a host of short-term forecasts. Thus, what is forecast in April may not exactly unfurl itself given the limitations of meteorological science and the computational tools required. However, this year, there is certainty about the absence of an El Niño. Associated with a warming of the Equatorial Pacific and with six out of 10 years linked to weak monsoon rain, a monsoon without an El Niño augurs well for India. Another encouraging factor is a parameter called the 'Eurasian snow cover,' or snow cover areas of northern hemisphere and Eurasia (January-March, 2025). These were 'below normal,' and, according to IMD meteorologists, have an 'inverse relationship' with that year's summer monsoon rainfall. An inverse relationship means that less snow corresponds to more rain.

For its monsoon forecasts, the IMD uses weather models that simulate the ocean and the atmosphere. This year, except for the El Niño, none of the 'oceanic parameters' indicates either way – how the monsoon will pan out. This is not unusual but means that factors closer to the subcontinent - cyclonic activity in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea for instance – will have greater importance to the monsoon. Past years with above normal rainfall have brought flooding and landslides, accentuated by the challenges of global warming. Kerala's Wayanad disaster in July last year, that killed at least 200 people and displaced several times that number, is just one instance. Therefore, positive news on the monsoon front should not distract the focus of the Centre and States from putting in place adequate infrastructure to minimise damage and the loss of lives.

The unfinished fight of an 'anti-national'

Prakash Raj

is an actor who has worked extensively across several Indian languages

I was in Delhi for a shoot. All-night shooting schedules left my days free. Delhi's summer was scorching...the new State government... lawmakers from across the country congregating in the capital... Parliament on the boil due to the Wakf (Amendment) Bill, now an Act.

I thought of Umar Khalid. It is going to be five years of his incarceration. How is he coping with this merciless heat inside Tihar Jail? I thought of his parents. I headed out to meet them in their home.

By the way, do you know Umar Khalid, the anti-national? Before that, shall we understand who an anti-national is? Without figuring that out, how can we differentiate an anti-national from a patriot?

One need not go too far back into the past to understand this. It suffices if we take note of an example from recent history.

Mahatma Gandhi, the man who unified the country towards non-violence, always emphasised the importance of religious harmony. He believed that the nation was no map, but the people who lived in it. He was of the firm conviction that all the people of the country had the right to practise the religion of their choice. No matter what language they spoke, which religion they practised and what caste they were born into, he believed that the nation bound them in a spirit of fraternity. Ironically, the man who survived British India was killed for these very views in independent India by a religious fundamentalist named Nathuram Godse.

Ever since the Bharatiya Janata Party took the helm in the country, Gandhi has become the anti-national and Godse the patriot. The very people whose historic agenda has been to divide communities and sow religious hate are projecting themselves as patriots. And these self-proclaimed patriots are branding anyone who stands up against their communal agenda as anti-nationals. That is how Umar Khalid, a bright young mind of our time, came to be an anti-national.

Where the case stands

What was Umar Khalid's crime after all? To believe that the country's diversity is the heart and the soul of the Constitution; to protest against those who are trying to destroy the Constitution; to speak up against rulers who are repressing minority communities; to come to the streets against those spreading communal hate and sacrificing innocent lives for political ends.

The case of one of India's bright young minds, whose struggle shows that the citizen has to fight to live with dignity and ensure his constitutionally-guaranteed rights

Even dead fish can go with the flow. To swim against the current, the fish have to be full of life, like Umar Khalid. He swims fearlessly against a flood of lies and hate. Can one expect any less from a true heir of Gandhism? "We are not the first to fight authoritarianism, and authoritarianism will not end after we are killed," Bhagat Singh had said. Umar Khalid carries that legacy.

As a student leader, Umar Khalid fought tooth and nail against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) 2019, a law aimed at dividing the nation and destroying its fraternity. In February 2020, Delhi was in the throes of protests against this law that is aimed at denying citizenship to Muslims. As supporters of this law entered the picture, things turned violent. The peaceful CAA protests were disrupted, and mobs went on a rampage leaving 53 people, mostly Muslims, dead.

Leaders of the ruling party who instigated the mobs to violence continue to roam free. But it was Umar Khalid who was arrested by the government under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on the charge of provoking mob violence.

Both the Sessions Court and High Court of Delhi have rejected his bail pleas. The bail application submitted before the Supreme Court in 2023 is still pending. To hold an accused for five years without substantiating charges, without even an investigation or an inquiry, is in itself unlawful and against human rights.

"A twenty-minute hearing in the Supreme Court is all we need to show that Umar Khalid is innocent," his lawyers say. But the top court, since 2023, could not spare those 20 minutes to hear the bail application.

Holding up against the state

On the way to Umar's house, some of his friends joined me. I was told that they make it a point to meet Umar in jail every week. "How do you manage to find time from your busy lives," I asked.

One of Umar's friends told me a story of a certain Amir who was in prison. In the first three months of Amir's incarceration, his parents and friends apparently made regular visits. They could not, however, keep up their visits owing to poverty and livelihood issues. Amir, who stayed strong in those months, began to crumble slowly. Though he could have secured bail relatively easily, he languished in jail for 10 years.

The pain of separation from dear ones aside, prison chips away at a person's self-confidence, breaking the human spirit.

Amir's sad experience has only strengthened the resolve of Umar's friends to meet him every week. They take turns and make it a point to visit him during every mulakaat, just to tell him "We are with you". I felt proud and moved by these young people who guard their comrade's emotional well-being from a ruthless state.

Umar's mother gave me a warm welcome. His father would return soon, having gone to a discussion on the Wakf (Amendment) Bill. Eid was just a few days earlier.

She brought us sweets and served them with a smile, even as the pain of her son's absence lurked deep in her eyes. "My son will be free soon. We have a lot of faith in the judiciary," she said. Her words, meant to console us, brought tears to my eyes. Meanwhile, Umar's father, who had returned, made tea, served us, and sat down for a chat.

I said, "Your son is not alone. We are with him."

"We are aware of the cause he fought for and went to prison. We too are with him," he said. I was moved.

One of Umar's friends told Umar's father, "Baba, once Umar is out on bail, we will send him with Prakash sir to South India. He will be safe there."

With a stern look, Umar's father replied, "The cause for his fight is here, in Delhi. Why go elsewhere and sit quietly?"

That is all.

Struggle is proof that we are alive. We have to fight to live with dignity. What good is it to be the living-dead?

The people, their rights

History will be witness to the fact that Umar Khalid and his parents are the real patriots. It is not just Umar Khalid, a person, who is languishing in jail for close to five years. It is the right to freedom of expression of every citizen; It is our right to dignity; and the Constitution that guarantees them.

#justasking

Shaping a response to the U.S.'s reciprocal tariffs

C. Rangarajan

is Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

D.K. Srivastava

is Honorary Professor, Madras School of Economics, and Member, Advisory Council to the Sixteenth Finance Commission

President Donald Trump's announcement of reciprocal tariffs has come as a shock, though it is not a surprise. The new tariffs consist of two parts: the existing commodity-wise import tariff and an additional reciprocal country-wise common tariff for all goods. The resultant tariffs are country-wise as well as commodity-wise. The reciprocal tariffs announced are now on hold and limited to 10% for 90 days, except for China.

Calculation of reciprocal tariffs

The calculation of the reciprocal country-wise tariff is based on the following formula:

U.S. discounted tariff rate = (-1) * (½) * exports from U.S. - imports to U.S.)/imports to U.S.

The parametric assumptions are such that no individual tariff or import demand elasticities appear in this formula. The formula in substance is not the way to determine the tariff rate. In addition, the table presented by Mr. Trump has a column 'charged to the US'. This is misleading. This is not the tariff rate imposed by various countries. It is simply double the discounted reciprocal tariff rate. India's reciprocal tariff is worked out below using magnitudes of exports and imports in billion dollars for 2024.

India's discounted reciprocal tariff rate = (-1) * (½) * (41.8 - 87.4)/87.4 = 26.1% = 26%

This penal tariff rate is to be added to the tariff that is presently applicable for various commodities. The 26% rate would be a common additional element for all commodities. For countries that are not listed in the reciprocal tariff list, a floor rate of 10% has been announced. This will be added to their individual commodity-wise tariff rates.

Some commodities have been presently exempted from the levy of the additional discounted reciprocal tariff. These include steel/aluminum articles, autos/auto parts, copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber articles, bullion and energy and certain other minerals that are not available in the U.S..

Table

India's total exports of goods and exports of goods to the United States as % of GDP (current prices)

	Export of goods	Exports to the U.S.
FY22	13.4	2.4
FY23	13.5	2.3
FY24	12.1	2.1

Source (basic data): RBI and MoSPI

New Delhi's approach must be multi-pronged, keeping in mind that increasing imports from the U.S. will reduce the tariff rate on India

Calibrating India's response

We need to explore now what our reactions should be. As indicated in the *Table*, India's total exports of goods and its exports to the U.S. as a percentage of GDP are moderate.

India's exports to the U.S. are not only quite low but have also been falling in recent years. The impact of the additional 26% tariff would be small but different for different exported goods. India is certainly not a country that is heavily dependent on exports.

An analysis of major exports to the U.S. in terms of their share in total exports to the U.S. indicates that the main Indian exports that would be affected by the imposition of the additional 26% tariff would be electrical machinery, gems and jewellery, machinery and mechanical appliances, mineral fuels and articles of iron and steel. Pharmaceuticals are not yet subject to the additional tariff. Mineral fuels are refined oil products that are re-exported to the U.S. after processing in India. The impact on gems and jewellery is likely to be minimal as its demand is relatively inelastic. The main items that would therefore be affected include electrical machinery, machinery and mechanical appliances and made-up textiles. However, India's competitors in these three commodity groups such as China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh have also been subjected to reciprocal tariffs which are higher than that of India. South Korea is also a competitor in electronic goods but has been subjected to a 25% reciprocal tariff, which is very close to that of India.

Some countries such as China have started levying reciprocal tariffs. However, this has elicited an aggressive response from the U.S., resulting in a revised overall tariff rate for China at 145%, which has been raised up to 245% for certain commodities. From India's angle this is not a good approach.

India's approach must be multi-pronged. An analysis of the major imports of India from the U.S. indicates that most of these are 'essentials'. Any levy of additional tariffs on them will make them more expensive. If India increases its imports from the U.S. wherever possible and advantageous, the penal reciprocal tariff rate on India will come down. For example, in the formula described above, if we increase the magnitude of India's imports from the U.S. by $25 billion, say, by substituting the import of petroleum from other sources to the U.S., India's reciprocal tariff rate will come down to 11.8%, just above the floor rate of 10%, making India far more competitive. This does not affect India's overall current account deficit. This results only in a change in the composition of India's oil imports basket. This may be even desirable.

India should speed up consultations with the U.S. trade authorities to work out a comprehensive trade arrangement taking into account the concerns of both countries. In the meanwhile, we should also watch out for 'dumping' in India by other countries such as China which are seriously affected.

WTO must take the lead

It is clear that the U.S. tariff initiative is only its opening gambit. Global trade and tariff structures would remain subject to considerable uncertainties in the near to medium term, which are bad for world trade and growth. As we move forward, we need to create a world trading system marked by low tariffs. The World Trade Organization should move strongly in this direction. Regional groupings are only a 'second best' solution which, however, must be pursued.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cases that drag on

The report (Page 1, April 16), "*National Herald* case: ED files chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul", only raises one pertinent question: why do cases get delayed for abnormally long periods? Do we need decades to clear cases?

The judiciary needs to work to a time frame that is reasonable. The various agencies that support the judiciary in collecting evidence need to work fast. Things cannot be delayed beyond a period. Whether it is the *National Herald* case, or the cases of those of Mehul Choksi, Nirav Modi or Vijay Mallya, there is an abnormal delay in closure.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

This is a case that has been in the 'pending list'. It raises the perception that the case is being revived as this is also election season. When the top court of the land has made it clear that there should be a time limit within which Governors and even the President need to give their assent to Bills, why cannot the judiciary set a time limit for closure of cases filed by central investigative agencies, especially against political leaders? There also needs to be similar action in 'normal' cases which have been dragging on for decades in various courts.

N. Mahadevan,
Chennai

It may be a 'fact' that the 'Gandhi family is the most corrupt family in the world'. However, one would like to know whether politicians in the BJP and the right wing can prove that they are lily white and spotless when it comes to public life. The electoral bonds scheme and the rise of businessmen from only one particular State have still to be explained satisfactorily. There are sure to be stories of malfeasance in governance by a certain political party, that is now in its third term.

Daniel Raj,
Bengaluru

Panel on autonomy

The decision by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to form a three-member high-level committee to strengthen 'States' autonomy and federalism' will, without doubt, further damage the central-State government relationship. When the judiciary is functioning independently and effectively, there is no emergent reason to safeguard the Constitution which is not under any palpable threat now. On the other hand, there are civic and environmental issues besides law and order problems in the State that need attention. The Tamil Nadu government needs well-wishers to advise it to avoid confrontation with New Delhi.

K. Chellappan,
Chennai

Expressing disagreement

While the amendments to the Waqf Act passed by both Houses of Parliament have triggered widespread protests and legal challenges, it is disheartening to witness the situation turn violent in certain regions, especially in West Bengal. In a democracy, disagreement with legislation can be voiced through peaceful protests and legal redress.

Kamil S.V.,
Androth Island, Lakshadweep.

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Call for permanent settlement for tribals

Shubhranshu Choudhary

author of 'Let's call him Vasu: With Maoists in Chhattisgarh'. He is also an active member of the New Peace Process there

In 2005, around 50,000 Gond tribals were forced to migrate to then-undivided Andhra Pradesh (now parts of Telangana) when the Government of India embarked on the 'strategic hamleting' programme – an approach used in south Vietnam in the 1960s – to eliminate Maoists in Chhattisgarh. The project, however, was a failure. The tribals, who the government had relocated to roadside camps, have long gone back home to the deep forests, and while some, who could not go back in fear of Maoists, joined the security forces.

Some of these dislocated tribals are now the backbone of the current military successes of security forces against Maoists in Chhattisgarh. Many Maoists who have surrendered have also joined them. Unlike central paramilitary forces and local non-tribal police, these tribals know the language and terrain of the area, and have proven to be game-changers, especially for Home Minister Amit Shah, who has announced that the war against Maoists will be over by March 31, 2026.

Through the years

The Strategic Hamlet Program to fight communist revolutionaries is not new in India. Just after Independence, at the end of 1949, the new Government of India also shifted tribals from forests to roadside camps to fight the Telangana communist revolutionaries after the surrender of the Nizam. They had recruited hundreds of tribals as "special police constables" to fight the communist *dalams*, although they mostly possessed rudimentary weapons such as spears and axes and had no military training. One such special group of Koya tribals was the "Tiger Squad," which had around 300 members.

The Strategic Hamlet strategy was more successful in Mizoram in the 1960s, where the government eventually reached a peace deal with the Mizo fighters. Much later, in 2019, when the same Mizo tribals started a fight with fellow Bru (Reang) tribals – causing thousands to flee to nearby Tripura – the Government of India came to their rescue with a Bru rehabilitation plan.

However, the government has not shown kindness towards the Gutti Koya tribals (as they are known in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), who have been living precariously on illegally occupied forest lands for almost 20 years. In a recent meeting of the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes (NCST), a representative from the Chhattisgarh government stated that around 10,000 Gond tribals have been displaced to other States due to ongoing violence, and most of them do not want to return. Representatives from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh reported that they have 24,000 and 8,000 displaced tribals, respectively, from Chhattisgarh.

The NCST has ordered a proper survey of the displaced people in three months. The same order was issued in 2019, but Chhattisgarh said they could not conduct the survey then, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The attitude of the Chhattisgarh government has slightly improved. In a written reply to a Congress MLA from Bastar a few years ago, the then Home Minister of Chhattisgarh stated in the Vidhan Sabha: "Because no tribal has been displaced due to ongoing violence in Bastar to other States, hence there is no question of their rehabilitation."

In the absence of any national or international law for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) which India abides by, these tribals have been the subject of atrocities over the years – from forest officials, police, and even local tribals who view them as encroachers on their resources. Maoists have not allowed them to go back, and State authorities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are reluctant to treat them as tribals.

As per Clause 3.1(m) of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), if a tribal person was forced to vacate a forest land under her possession before the cut-off date of December 13, 2005, the State must provide her with alternative forest land. Many IDPs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have applied under this clause, requesting alternative forest land in these States. However, the Chhattisgarh government has been sitting on those applications for over five years. The clause does not say that alternative land cannot be given in a different State. Yet, Chhattisgarh has not raised the issue with either the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Delhi or Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, despite repeated requests.

Under the 2019 Bru Rehabilitation Plan, Bru tribals were given the option of either going back to Mizoram or staying back in Tripura with lesser State support. Over the past 20 years, a new generation of Gutti Koya tribals has grown up in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, but they have been denied State support as tribals because both governments treat them as "migrants who cannot be given tribal status." In the NCST meeting, representatives of both States said, "We try to give support to these displaced tribals on humanitarian grounds, but we cannot do much. The Central Home Ministry should intervene here, as they have done in the case of other Internally Displaced People elsewhere."

Most of the displaced tribals, mainly from the new generation, are attracted towards more economic opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and wish to stay. Telangana has taken over farmlands of many displaced tribals, planting trees there as part of a renewed effort to push them back to Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh has discouraged any efforts to build new houses in the forest by violently destroying them. Courts have occasionally offered relief to displaced tribals, but they are looking for a permanent settlement so that the new generation can live a life of dignity.

Most of the displaced tribals, mainly from the new generation, are attracted towards more economic opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

An era ends at Thoothukudi

As Sterlite Copper shifts its machinery, questions arise over who gains or loses

STATE OF PLAY

R. Chandra Mouli

With Sterlite Copper shifting its machinery out of Thoothukudi, a new question emerges: Is it a gain for other States? The answer depends on your viewpoint – as a citizen, vendor, contractor, activist, pacifist, community leader, or administrator.

The smelter at Thoothukudi was shut down in 2018, following allegations of air pollution and groundwater contamination. We recall with sorrow the police firing in May that year, which led to the loss of 13 lives.

Moving to the present, what is topical is a decision taken in mid-March by Vedanta Resources, the global mining and metals enterprise that owns Sterlite Copper. The management is shifting all the machinery and equipment procured seven years ago. This will be rehoused at their copper plant in Silvassa, Western India. This move is not entirely unexpected. The capital cost of machines and materials to set up a smelter is over ₹6,000 crore, and a seven-year wait with no silver lining in the cloud can be daunting for a project owner.

Is this the beginning of a complete decommissioning? Or is it too late for a second chance? While the future remains uncertain, it is worth going back in time.

The smelter was commissioned in 1997 as a "Red Category" unit – referring to industry sectors with a Pollution Index Score of 60 and above.

In August 2020, the Madras High Court ordered the plant's closure. This decision was upheld by the Supreme Court in February 2024. A review

petition was also dismissed in October. The only remaining legal resort is a Curative Petition, which, if accepted, could reopen the case.

Here are questions that engage minds: Have pollution levels reduced significantly in Thoothukudi since the smelter was shut down? Is groundwater less contaminated? Is the rainfall more than before? Is the incidence of cancer and respiratory issues lower than before?

Among the 60-plus Red Category units operating in Thoothukudi district, was Sterlite Copper the only reason for alleged pollution? For the answer, an audit can be initiated by the State administration on safety, compliance, and emission control parameters applicable to every Red Category unit in the vicinity. The review must include whether requisite permissions for Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate have been obtained or renewed as per the due date.

As for Sterlite Copper, rather than a total shutdown, the route could have involved additional regulatory protocols and safety enhancements in areas found wanting. The management of the smelter has consistently said they are open to implementing corrective measures.

Gaining a complete understanding of a complex industry such as copper smelting is not easy for the layperson. But the impact of a shutdown of a major facility is evident to all.

This was clear in West Bengal in 2008, when Ratan Tata relocated the Nano car plant to Gujarat after the then-Opposition party demanded land be returned to farmers. This had an impact on the State's pro-industry image and affected ancillary industries.

Understandably, the Tamil Nadu government remained silent for years while the Sterlite case was *sub judice* for several years. With no petition pending or hearing ongoing in courts at present, the timing may be just right for the leadership to act, if it believes the phased exit of Sterlite Copper is not in the best interest of the State and community.

While Tamil Nadu is on a path of rapid industrial growth, evidence points to the paucity of copper at the national level. Mayur Karmarkar, Managing Director, International Copper Association, said in an interview with *Business Line* earlier this year that domestic copper production is struggling to keep pace with rising demand.

Who gains, who loses

With the recent commissioning of Kutch Copper, Gujarat now has a steady supply of refined copper for industries, electric vehicle manufacture, and for solar and wind energy equipment.

However, Tamil Nadu will have to source the critical input material from other parts of the country or import refined copper from overseas.

Is this a loss for Tamil Nadu and a gain for Gujarat or other States? The tide in Thoothukudi, which ebbs and flows, may have the answer.

The writer is a former journalist and now serves as a communications consultant

Decadal Growth Average: a balanced formula for delimitation

Using the Decadal Growth Average formula, the Centre can address regional concerns and uphold the principles of federalism

DATA POINT

P. Krishna Mohan Reddy

The Joint Action Committee, formed by the southern States, has demanded that delimitation be deferred by another 25 years or delinked from population. Though the Centre remains tight-lipped about the delimitation formula and timeline, the southern States are anticipating the worst-case scenario.

If the Centre opts for State-wise population growth as the sole or major criterion, it will compromise the interests of these States, which have implemented the family planning programme in all sincerity. Deferring is also not ideal, as there is no guarantee that we will not face the same issue after 25 years. This analysis tries to understand the apprehensions of the southern States vis-à-vis the formula of the Delimitation Commission.

Southern States fear that their role in lawmaking will decrease if population growth is used for delimitation. The argument that delimitation would be on a pro-rata basis and that these States would not lose a single seat is not convincing. Merely retaining the existing number of seats or seeing a small increase will not assuage their fears. They are concerned that their populous counterparts would bag a disproportionate number of seats.

On the other hand, the Centre cannot ignore the need to enhance the number of MPs, which has been frozen since 1973. It is important to respect the constitutional spirit of one person, one vote. Even if the Centre freezes delimitation for another 25 years, there is no guarantee of achieving a uniform population growth rate across States, as it depends on several factors such as economy, religious beliefs and geography. Delinking delimitation from population growth, as requested by some States, is also not a tenable proposition, since population is the foundational criterion for delimitation under Article 81(2)(a).

As per reports, the Centre is looking to increase the 543 seats to 753, based on a State-wise population growth formula. The MP seats for populous States such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan would rise from 174 to 249. The seats of the five southern States – Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – would only slightly increase from 129 to 144.

With this estimation, the Centre has reasons to consider the interests of the southern States. First, the Centre is duty-bound to ensure fair representation and cannot afford to hurt the sentiments of an entire region. Second, in today's charged political climate, every decision is met with suspicion and dispute. If the Centre goes ahead with the State-wise population formula, it risks creating sharp disparities within the country's polity. The south Indian States would feel that their progress has worked against their prospects and rendered them less significant.

There are three approaches for delimitation using population growth, as mandated in Article 81 (2)(a). India's population grew by 153% between 1971 and 2021. If this number is taken as the basis, the Lok Sabha seats will go up to 1,374, and the House becomes unwieldy. The average annual growth rate over the five decades is 1.94%, and increasing the number of seats by this number does not make sense. The third option is the Decadal Growth Average (DGA) formula. If we average the growth rates of five decades between 1971 and 2021, we get 20.91%. If this number is used, the seats will go up to 656, which is a reasonable number. I propose that the Centre should use the DGA.

Unlike the State-wise population growth model, it does not penalise States that have effectively controlled their population. Since the DGA transfers the impact of population growth equally across all States, it eliminates the need for applying other weightage factors such as population control, literacy rate, economic growth rate, etc. If the Centre has to assign weightages, that process could lead to disputes.

Using the DGA formula would allow the Centre to safeguard the interests of all States while recognising both population growth and development. The only requirement would be to amend Article 81 (2)(a), which currently mandates that Lok Sabha seat allocation be proportional to each State's population, ensuring equal representation per member. This requirement of proportionality to the population is not paramount in the current context for three reasons.

First, for decades, increasing the number of MP seats in line with population growth was considered impractical due to vast disparities in State-wise population growth rates, ranging from minimal to explosive. That is why there has been a more than five-decade embargo. Second, the Centre could amend Article 81 to protect the interests of all the States. Third, different States having different population ratios per MP seat is not a problem. It is often the geography that poses challenges to the MPs rather than the population. For instance, the Lakshadweep parliamentary constituency has only about 80,000 people, but to meet them, their MP needs to travel to several islands, whereas the MP of Malkajgiri constituency, the most populous Lok Sabha constituency in the country, can reach out to more than 45 lakh people very easily.

By adopting the DGA formula for enhancing Lok Sabha constituencies, the Centre can address regional concerns and uphold the principles of federalism. This formula would also pave the way for future delimitations without any disputes or protests.

New formula, fresh approach

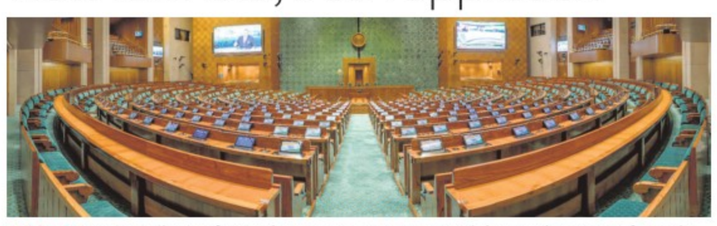


Table: State-wise share of growth in LS seats using Decadal Growth Average formula

States/UT	Current seats	% of total seats	Seats after growth by 20.9%	Final share in total seats
Uttar Pradesh	80	14.73%	97	14.79%
Maharashtra	48	8.84%	58	8.84%
West Bengal	42	7.73%	51	7.77%
Bihar	40	7.37%	48	7.32%
Tamil Nadu	39	7.18%	47	7.17%
Madhya Pradesh	29	5.34%	35	5.34%
Karnataka	28	5.15%	34	5.18%
Gujarat	26	4.79%	31	4.73%
Rajasthan	25	4.60%	30	4.57%
Andhra Pradesh	25	4.60%	30	4.57%
Odisha	21	3.87%	25	3.81%
Kerala	20	3.68%	24	3.66%
Telangana	17	3.13%	21	3.20%
Assam	14	2.58%	17	2.59%
Jharkhand	14	2.58%	17	2.59%
Punjab	13	2.40%	16	2.44%
Chhattisgarh	11	2.02%	13	1.98%
Haryana	10	1.84%	12	1.83%
Delhi	7	1.29%	8	1.22%
J&K	5	0.92%	6	0.92%
Uttarakhand	5	0.92%	6	0.92%
Himachal	4	0.74%	5	0.76%
Tripura	2	0.37%	2	0.31%
Manipur	2	0.37%	2	0.31%
Meghalaya	2	0.37%	2	0.31%
Arunachal	2	0.37%	2	0.31%
Goa	2	0.37%	2	0.31%
Mizoram	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Nagaland	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Sikkim	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Chandigarh	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Andaman	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Dadra, Daman	2	0.37%	2	0.31%
Lakshadweep	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Puducherry	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Ladakh	1	0.18%	1	0.15%
Total	**543**	**100%**	**656**	**100%**

The author was a former Officer on Special Duty to ex-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 17, 1975

Dr. Radhakrishnan dead

Madras, April 17: We record with profound regret the death of Dr. S Radhakrishnan, former President, at a nursing home here early this morning. He was 86.

Dr. Radhakrishnan, who had been convalescing in the nursing home for the past eight months, suffered repeated cardiac failure during the last ten days. His condition became critical yesterday morning. He was administered oxygen and intravenous fluid with drugs. He was semi-conscious the whole day and the best efforts of the doctors could not save him. The end came suddenly at 12-45 a.m.

He is survived by a son and five daughters.

The Philosopher-Statesman had a trying time for the last two years. He was admitted in the nursing home on September 10, 1973 with a hip fracture sustained when he slipped in his house and was discharged after a fortnight. Last year, he was treated for a cerebral stroke from June 22 and returned home on July 30 only to be re-admitted on the night of August 19 with a set-back in his condition. He was treated for gastro-intestinal bleeding. Since then he had been in the hospital.

According to the doctors who attended on him, Dr. Radhakrishnan was making rapid progress and he was moving about in a wheel chair. They recalled how gladly he received the news of Templeton Foundation prize for Progress in Religion awarded to him in February. He was the first non-Christian to be awarded the prize £40,000 (about Rs. eight lakhs).

The funeral will take place after 4 p.m. to-day with full State honours at the Mylapore crematorium. The body will lie in State from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. for public view.

The funeral procession will start from Girija at 4 p.m.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 17, 1925

Western tourists in Ceylon.

We learn from "The Ceylon Daily News" that the Anchor Liner "California", of 17,000 tons, which is on tour round the world with about 600 tourists arrived in Colombo on Saturday last on her way for Calcutta. The majority of the tourists are middle or working class people whose occupations range from an ex-Governor of a State to a telephone operator. The total of 600 tourists is composed of 582 Americans, 11 Britishers, 4 Germans and others.

From Page One

Waqf-by-user clause would be a problem: SC

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners, said "who was the State to say I cannot be a Waqf-by-user? Many of these Waqfs were created hundreds of years ago. Where do you find the records?"

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, also for the petitioners, said four out of eight lakh Waqfs were Waqf-by-user properties. Mr. Mehta said these properties could be registered. But the CJI asked how the government intended to "register" Waqf-by-user as there would be no documents.

The petitioners questioned a provision in the 2025 Act, which mandated a person to prove he had been a practising Muslim for five years before dedicating his property as Waqf. This clause, they said, was a violation of Article 26 (the right to form and maintain institutions for religious and charitable intents) of the Constitution.

CJI Khanna also referred to the communal violence in West Bengal over the recently amended Act as "very disturbing".

Violence 'pre-planned', says Mamata Banerjee

"The BJP wants to polarise so that my government is removed from power. Once they come to power, they won't even allow you to eat," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that *imams* and *muezzins* have a responsibility to ensure that "no one gets enraged by what the BJP says".

The Trinamool chairperson further said that her MPs fought against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and urged the parties of the Opposition INDIA bloc to fight against the Act. She said that protests should be held in Delhi and added that her party MPs will join the protests. Questioning the allies of the BJP, particularly Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party, for supporting the passage of the Act, the Chief Minister said the Act should have been passed like a Constitutional amendment with two-thirds majority. "I will appeal to INDIA team: let us be united and let us fight together boldly. This is not an individual matter; it will affect each and everybody. Today, they are doing against one group. Tomorrow, they will target another. They are talking about Uniform Civil Code after this...," Ms Banerjee said.

Kailash Manasarovar Yatra set to restart

In previous years, Indian authorities would set up a computerised lottery system in the first week of May to choose the pilgrims, and officials said they were keen to complete the agreement to resume the pilgrimage at the earliest, so as not to risk delaying the process or curtailing the season for making the journey.

The resumption of the pilgrimage process was discussed between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi when they met in November, 2024, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Brazil.

Charges for the Yatra this year will also increase considerably from six years ago, the official said, as rates for accomodation and transportation have been revised upwards by both Indian and Chinese sides.

(With inputs from Ishita Mishra)

CJI proposes Justice Gavai as successor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, who is set to retire on May 13, on Wednesday recommended Justice B.R. Gavai to the government for appointment as the 52nd Chief Justice of India.

Justice Gavai was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019. He is due to retire on November 23, 2025, leaving him with a tenure of little over six months.

Justice Gavai is the next in line to be Chief Justice of India in accordance with the seniority norm.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, the Law Ministry seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice about the next appointment.

No coalition govt. in T.N., says AIADMK chief

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday said there would be no coalition government in Tamil Nadu if the alliance of the Dravidian major and the BJP captured power in 2026 Assembly election.

Asked about the observations of Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a press conference last week in Chennai where he had announced the coming together of the two parties, Mr. Palaniswami, who met presspersons for the first time after the development, emphasised that the Union Minister did not mention about power sharing in the State.

NCW forms panel to probe violence in Murshidabad

The team will probe reports of women being harassed amid communal clashes in the district in West Bengal; residents at refugee camp in adjacent Malda face shortage of essential medicines

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Security personnel take stock of the situation in the violence-hit areas of Malda and Murshidabad districts in West Bengal. PTI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken *suo motu* cognisance of the situation in West Bengal's Murshidabad district and has formed a team to investigate the violence over the Waqf (Amendment) Act. A parallel crisis is unfolding at the relief camps in adjacent Malda district as displaced residents reportedly face a severe shortage of essential medicines.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the NCW stated that there were reports of women being harassed amid communal clashes in the district. The statement added: "The NCW Chairperson has taken *suo motu* cognisance of a deeply disturbing report from Murshidabad, West Bengal, where several women were reportedly molested amid communal violence, triggering the exodus of hundreds of women. The Chairperson has also constituted an Inquiry Committee to investigate the incident."

The commission's Chairperson, Vijaya Rahatkar, is set to visit the violence-hit areas and speak to survivors on April 19. The team will arrive in West Bengal on Thursday.

Health crisis

In a related development, a health crisis is brewing at the relief camps in Malda, sources said. People living in the Parlalpur High School refugee camp at Deonapur in the district are facing a shortage of vital medicines, despite the government setting up a small medical facility inside the school, which houses over 400 persons who had fled their homes in Murshidabad after the violence erupted.

A resident at the relief camp told presspersons that though two doctors visit the site twice a day, there were no drugs for chronic ailments such as heart disease.

"I have a heart block. We are also not allowed to go out of the camp to buy the medicines. How will we live like this," asked Radhanath Mondal, an elderly man at the relief camp.

While basic medicines for fever, pain relief and such issues are available at the medical help desk set up on the site, drugs to treat emergencies and chronic health conditions are not, sources said.

A doctor who works at the site told presspersons, "We do not have medicines for specific conditions at the moment, but we are trying our best to arrange them from Malda town."

Mosquito nets, clothes and snacks are being supplied by various civil society groups. Three meals are being distributed every day at the camp, reports added.

No violence was reported from the area that has been under constant watch of the Central Reserve Police Force over the past few days.

Mamata should quit, says BJP; party stages protest in Kolkata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Suvendu Adhikari

Stepping up the heat on the Trinamool Congress government over the recent communal clashes in Murshidabad, BJP MLAs observed Wednesday as Hindu Martyrs Day, holding protests near the West Bengal Assembly.

The protests were led by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, who said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had failed to protect the people of the State.

"We demand the immediate resignation of the CM, who has squarely failed to protect the lives and property of people from attacks. A father-son duo was brutally murdered for being Hindus by jihadis who don't know the contents of the Waqf (Amendment) Act," Mr. Adhikari told presspersons outside the Assembly.

Three people were killed in the violence that erupted on April 11 and 12. Two members of a family, Haragobind Das and Chandan Das, were hacked to death by a mob, and 17-year-old Izaz Ahmed Sheikh sustained bullet injuries in a police action. Ms. Banerjee announced on Wednesday that ₹10 lakh would to given to the next of kin of each of the deceased.

Court's permission

Mr. Adhikari has approached the Calcutta High Court seeking permission to visit the affected areas of Murshidabad.

Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded that instead of making remarks on the violence from Kolkata, the Chief Minister should visit the affected areas.

ISF MLA named in FIR on violence in Bhangar

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Nawshad Siddique, an MLA belonging to the Indian Secular Front (ISF), has been named in an FIR registered by the West Bengal police in relation to the recent violence in Bhangar. The total number of people arrested in relation to this incident has now climbed to 17.

Condemning the violence, Trinamool Congress MLA Saokat Molla from Bhangar had shared a video blaming the ISF workers for inciting protesters and attacking the police.

However, Mr. Siddique said that "unarmed and peaceful" protesters were arrested.

"We abide by the law, but we will not let this slide," Mr. Siddique said.

Northeastern region is gateway to Southeast Asia, says Jaishankar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

> It is at the heart of many key Indian policies — it could be 'neighbourhood' first, Act East or BIMSTEC. The northeast adjoins five of our neighbours on land
>
> **S. JAISHANKAR**
> Minister of External Affairs

Weeks after the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, Muhammad Yunus, referred to India's northeastern region as "landlocked", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday highlighted the region as a "gateway to Southeast Asia".

In a virtual address to the Ambassadors' meet of the North East Investors Summit, 2025, Mr. Jaishankar spoke about the potential of the region and encouraged investors to take advantage of what it had to offer.

"The northeastern region is at the heart of many key Indian policies – it could be 'neighbourhood' first, Act East or BIMSTEC. The northeast adjoins five of our neighbours on land. Its boundaries are the interface between the Indian subcontinent and the ASEAN. Many of our recent initiatives involving immediate neighbours emanate from this very region," Mr. Jaishankar said.

The remarks from the External Affairs Minister comes a fortnight after Mr. Yunus created controversy by referring to the northeastern region as a "landlocked" territory that could be an "extension" of the Chinese market. The Ministry of External Affairs had not made an official response, though India terminated transshipment of cargo from Bangladesh through India's land and airports citing "congestion" following the remarks.

"Highlighted the growing relevance of the northeast – as a gateway to Southeast Asia, a tourism hub and a contributor to the global workplace," said Mr. Jaishankar in a remark on X.

"We are seeking to address long-standing challenges, some emanating from our past history," Mr. Jaishankar said, highlighting the 'Purvodaya' scheme of the Government of India that he described as an "endeavour in that regard". Mr. Jaishankar also said the government had highlighted the tourism potential of northeastern States during the run-up to the 2023 G-20 summit in Delhi when some of the preparatory meetings had been held there. He also spoke of the trilateral highway that aims to connect India and Thailand through Myanmar and the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) that was conceived to connect the northeast with Myanmar's port of Sittwe.

Two Maoists shot dead in encounter in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Two Maoists, carrying a collective bounty of ₹13 lakh, were killed in an encounter with security forces along the Kondagaon-Narayanpur boundary of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Tuesday, the police said.

Sharing details of the encounter, a senior police officer said on Wednesday that the gunfight had taken place in the forest of Kilam-Bargum villages along the inter-district boundary.

The encounter was carried out by a joint team of security personnel including the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters from Kondagaon, said Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range) P. Sundarraj.

Vance, family to visit India from April 21, meet Prime Minister

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

J.D. Vance

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance will travel to India with his family next week, the Ministry of External Affairs and the White House announced on Wednesday.

During the four-day visit, which will be part-official in Delhi and partly a private tour of Agra and Jaipur, Mr. Vance will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and is expected to launch the India-U.S. technology partnership TRUST announced during Mr. Modi's visit to Washington in February. Prior to the India visit, Mr. Vance and his entourage will travel to Rome, and visit the Vatican.

"The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to review the progress in bilateral relations and the implementation of the outcomes of the India-U.S. Joint Statement issued on 13 February 2025 during the visit of the Prime Minister to the US," the MEA said in its announcement, while the White House said he will discuss "shared economic and geopolitical priorities".

Second Lady

This is Mr. Vance's first visit to India, along with his wife of Indian-origin Usha Chilukuri Vance, whom he married in 2014. The couple and their three children are expected to visit tourist attractions including the Taj Mahal in Agra, and a number of historical sites in Jaipur.

However, the U.S. 'Second Family' is not expected to travel to Andhra Pradesh, where members of Ms. Vance's family still live, including her 96-year-old grandaunt Professor Shantamma during this visit.

Five military personnel get MacGregor medals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Five military personnel were on Wednesday conferred the MacGregor Memorial Medal by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan for outstanding contributions in military reconnaissance, exploration and adventure for 2023 and 2024.

The awardees for 2023 included Wing Commander D. Panda from the Air Force and Electrical Artificer (Radio) Rahul Kumar Pandey from the Navy. For 2024, Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer (Radio) Ram Ratan Jat of the Navy and Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia from the Air Force were honoured with the medal.

Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal, Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports in Arunachal Pradesh, was also awarded. However, the officer was not physically present to receive the award as he is on a mountaineering expedition to Kangchenjunga.

Urdu is the finest specimen of composite cultural ethos of India, says Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said it is a "pitiable digression from reality" to believe that Hindi is the language of the Hindus and Urdu of the Muslims. A language is only a means of communication and does not represent a religion, it stated.

"Language is not religion. Language does not even represent religion. Language belongs to a community, to a region, to people; and not to a religion. Language is culture. Language is the yardstick to measure the civilisational march of a community and its people. So is the case of Urdu, which is the finest specimen of Ganga-Jamuni *tahzeeb*, or the Hindustani *tahzeeb*, which is the composite cultural ethos of the plains of northern and central India," a Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Vinod Chandran said in a judgment.

The order stemmed from an appeal filed against the use of Urdu on the signboard of a new building of the Municipal Council, Patur, in Akola district of Maharashtra. The signage 'Municipal Council, Patur' was written in Marathi and then in Urdu. The appellant, Varshatai, a former Municipal Council member, said Marathi was the official language of the State of Maharashtra and that the use of Urdu was "wrong".

The court said Urdu was not an alien language. It was born and nurtured in India, and reached greater refinement and became a language of choice for poets in India. "The prejudice against Urdu stems from the misconception that Urdu is alien to India. This opinion, we are afraid, is incorrect as Urdu, like Marathi and Hindi, is an Indo-Aryan language," Justice Dhulia said.

The court said Hindi and Urdu were fundamentally one language. "When we criticise Urdu, we are in a way also criticising Hindi... True, Urdu is mainly written in Nastaliq and Hindi in Devanagari; but then scripts do not make a language. What makes languages distinct is their syntax, their grammar and their phonology. Urdu and Hindi have broad similarities in all these counts," the top court said.

The fusion of the two languages, Hindi and Urdu, met a roadblock in the form of the puritans on both sides and Hindi became more Sanskritised and Urdu more Persian, Justice Dhulia explained.

The common man's everyday Hindi was peppered with Urdu terms, the judge noted.

After 25 years, convict in Staines murder case released

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

After 25 years of incarceration, Mahendra Hembram, one of the convicts in the murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons, was released from Keonjhar jail in Odisha on grounds of "good behaviour" on Wednesday.

Hembram was involved in setting fire to the van in which Staines and his two minor sons were sleeping on January 22, 1999. His release was recommended by the Odisha State Sentence Review Board, and the Keonjhar jail authorities maintained that it was carried out in accordance with the law.

Meanwhile, Dara Singh, the prime convict in the case, remains in jail. A campaign for Singh's release had earlier received support from Mohan Majhi, now the Chief Minister, during his tenure as the Keonjhar MLA.

Hembram, who was 25 at the time, was part of the mob involved in the murders that had shocked the conscience of humanity across the world.

Now 50, he was garlanded upon his release, as supporters raised slogans of "Jai Shri Ram".

A total of 51 people were arrested in connection with the case.

Cong. stages stir, says case against top leaders fake

Action driven by the BJP's fear of a rising, revived Congress, party says; it alleges that chargesheet against Gandhis is an attempt to divert attention from public issues, economic crisis, foreign policy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rallying around Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, the principal Opposition party on Wednesday held nationwide protests against the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after the Gandhis were named in a chargesheet alleging money laundering in the *National Herald* case.

"All over the country, the Congress cadre staged massive protests against the Modi-Shah regime's vendetta politics by attempting to intimidate Smt. Sonia Gandhi *ji* and Sh. RahulGandhi *ji* through the frivolous National Herald case," party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a social media post on X.

Stating that whenever Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets "scared", he sends the Central agencies to the fore, Mr. Venugopal added, "It is nothing but the BJP's fear of a rising, revived Congress under Kharge *ji* and Rahul *ji*'s leadership that is driving such actions."

Speaking out: Congress members staging a protest in New Delhi on Wednesday after the ED named Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in a chargesheet in the *National Herald* case. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Addressing a joint press conference with senior advocate and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said the money laundering allegation was "fake".

"Their Make in India programme failed and now, they have launched a 'Fake in India' programme," Mr. Ramesh said, alleging that this "politics of vendetta has been masterminded by two people".

"We will not be silent. We cannot be silenced. Whatever the Prime Minister and Home Minister do, we will not stay silent and we will keep raising these issues of the people," he added.

The party said that the ED chargesheet against the Gandhis was an attempt to divert attention from public issues, economic crisis and foreign policy.

'Political thuggery'

Mr. Singhvi said the case was nothing but vendetta in legal disguise. "Selective justice is nothing but political thuggery," he alleged.

The senior advocate, who has handled the *National Herald* case before in the Delhi High Court, said that Young Indian, which had taken over the debt of Associated Journals Limited-run *National Herald* newspaper, was a not-for-profit company under the Companies Act.

He said there had been no transfer of any AJL property and asked what and where were the proceeds of crime.

Congress leaders should respond to allegations in *National Herald* case: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Dismissing the Congress allegation that "political vendetta" is behind the naming of party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in the *National Herald* case, the BJP on Wednesday said no one had a "license to loot".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, former Law Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Congress should respond to the allegations in the chargesheet and trust that that the law would take its own course. The probe agencies would be unfazed by the Opposition party's "threats", he said.

He said the main charge against the Gandhis was as majority shareholders of the Young Indian company, they "misappropriated" thousands of crores of real estate belonging to Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), which owns the *National Herald* newspaper.

In its chargesheet, the ED has accused the Gandhis and others of laundering ₹988 crore. The Congress described the chargesheet as "vendetta politics", and termed the seizure of assets in the case as a "state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law".

Ravi Shankar Prasad

'Threats' condemned

While the Congress has the right to hold dharnas to protest against the Enforcement Directorate's chargesheet, it does not extend to misappropriating public properties given by the government to the *National Herald*, Mr. Prasad said.

He accused the Congress of issuing threats to the probe agency, and asked if the party and the Gandhis believed in the due process of law or not. "We condemn the threats from the Congress. There is the Modi government in place. It will allow the law to take its own course," the BJP leader said.

The Young Indian, he said, wrote off the ₹90 crore loan that the Congress had given to the AJL and got ownership of the company with a paltry investment of ₹50 lakh.

The land was given to the AJL by the government, Mr. Prasad said, accusing the Congress establishment of using the *National Herald* to collect advertisements and properties.

It appeared to be the "Gandhi model of development", he said, noting that Ms. Gandhi's son-in-law, Robert Vadra, has been accused of pocketing huge profits in a Haryana land deal with the collusion of the then Congress government in the State.

'Family fief'

Mr. Prasad alleged that "a newspaper that was established in the freedom struggle to espouse the voice of those fighting British imperialism degenerated into a money-minting exercise for the Congress party establishment."

The *National Herald* was started in the 1930s with 5,000 shareholders, but has been reduced to a fief of the Nehru-Gandhi family, the BJP leader said, adding that Congress leaders such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Chandra Bhanu Gupta had voiced concerns over the manner in which the newspaper was run.

Stop interfering in States' affairs, Akhilesh tells Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav said here on Wednesday that the Centre should refrain from unnecessary interference in State matters and uphold the spirit of federalism. He was responding to the Tamil Nadu government's call for greater autonomy.

"The architects of our Constitution, after careful deliberation, created a federal system. This federal structure must be respected, without any unwarranted interference," Mr. Yadav said.

Akhilesh Yadav

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday had announced the formation of a three-member high-level committee to recommend measures to strengthen State autonomy and federalism.

Commenting on the Enforcement Directorate's chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the *National Herald* case, Mr. Yadav said the Congress had itself empowered the ED despite objections from several political parties on its sweeping authority.

"We had warned the Congress back then that the law they were introducing could eventually land them in trouble," he said. "I can't speak for other States, but in Maharashtra, no leader opposing the BJP has been spared by agencies," he added.

"As far as the *National Herald* case is concerned, I am of the view that the ED as an agency should be abolished. I would urge the Congress to take the lead to close it down," he said.

Road to defeating BJP at national level is through Gujarat, Rahul tells party workers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday told party workers that the route to defeating the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh nationally was through Gujarat and only his party was capable of defeating them ideologically.

Mr. Gandhi made these comments in Modasa town in Aravalli district of north Gujarat while launching the *Sangathan Srijan Abhigyan*, or the campaign to build party organisation.

Revamp plans: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the district workers' convention in Modasa town of Gujarat on Wednesday. PTI

Though the party in Gujarat could have looked demoralised in the past few years, Mr. Gandhi said, the Congress had foundational roots in the State. "In a way, the Congress came into existence from Gujarat because two of the party's great leaders – Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel – were from this State," he said.

"This is a battle of ideologies. There are only two parties which have ideologies – one is the BJP and the other is the Congress. And, only the Congress can defeat the BJP and the RSS. Gujarat is the most important State for the party because the path to the BJP's defeat goes through Gujarat," Mr. Gandhi added.

AICC decision

Following up on the decision taken at the Ahmedabad session of the All India Congress Committee, the Congress leader laid out the road map for revamping the organisation in the State, promising to reward leaders on the basis of performance and remove those who are either inactive or "work for the BJP". "We have to identify the people who are with the BJP and politely tell them, 'Step aside and make way for others.' There shouldn't be any use of force," he said.

He said the party would start a healthy competition instead of "destructive competition", map performance of leaders in their respective areas, and make a sincere outreach to young people.

During the open-house interaction, responding to concerns raised by a woman member, Mr. Gandhi promised to promote women leadership.

Ahead of Bihar polls, EC begins training booth-level agents

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a first, the Election Commission has begun training booth-level agents (BLAs) belonging to political parties from Bihar in view of the upcoming Assembly election in the State.

Nearly 280 BLAs associated with 10 recognised parties are taking part in the two-day training

Nearly 280 BLAs from the State associated with 10 recognised parties are taking part in the two-day training, which began at the India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management here on Wednesday.

The initiative comes amid widespread allegations by Opposition parties about manipulation in voter lists.

First day

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, addressed the BLAs at the first-of-its-kind training programme, an official statement by the EC said.

The training was conceptualised during the Chief Electoral Officers' conference held in March when the commission underscored the importance of BLAs in the election processes.

On the first day of the training on Wednesday, the BLAs were given an overview of their roles and responsibilities as per the legal framework. The programme familiarised them with various aspects of the election processes, including the preparation and revision of electoral rolls as well as the associated application forms.

ED raids over 50 locations in Mahadev App case

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday searched the premises of travel booking portal EaseMyTrip's co-founder Nishant Pitti in connection with the money laundering case linked to the alleged Mahadev online betting app scam of Chhattisgarh, an official said.

The raids at Mr. Pitti's office and residence in Delhi-NCR were part of the raids conducted by the agency in "over 53 locations", the official said, adding that the searches pertained to tracking the movement of the proceeds of crime generated from the app.

The locations covered included Mumbai, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Indore, Jaipur, Chennai and Sambalpur in Odisha besides Delhi-NCR, but none in Chhattisgarh, the official added.

Government of Tamil Nadu **Highways Department,**
Superintending Engineer (H) Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai - 15.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No: 02/2025-26/CMDP/DO/dated:15.04.2025
(Online Only)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu Item Rate tender under Two cover system through online only for Division I work of **"Construction of High Level Bridge across Buckingham Canal at km 0/8 of Link Road Connecting Rajiv Gandhi Salai and ECR"** (Retender) will be received upto **05.05.2025, 14.00** Hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15.

Detailed Scope of work, approximate value, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from **17.04.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://www.tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer(H)
CMDP Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15.

DIPR/1534/TENDER/2025

स्वच्छता जल एवं सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य परियोजना
SANITATION WATER AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT
क्रमांक: एफ ( )सतु निर्माण/निविदा/निदे/स्वच्छ/2025-26/1652
दिनांक: 07/04/2025

E-TENDER NOTICE :- 01/2025-26
UBN :- SWP2526GLOB00001
Bids are invited from Manufacturers/ Distributors/ Bonafide dealer in the good for the SUPPLY OF NUTRITIONAL FOOD PRODUCTS

S. No.	Details of Commodities	Estimated Total cost (in Lacs.)	Bid Security (EMD) (in Lacs.)	Bid Fee (in Rs.)	Processing Fee (in Rs.)
1.	SUPPLY OF NUTRITIONAL FOOD ITEMS	163.00	3.26	2000.00	2000.00

The Tender/ Bid will only be submitted through online tendering system of www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. The interested bidders will have to be enrolled/registered with portal of www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.
Bid document download Start date 08-04-2025 05.00 P.M.
- Bid submission end date 30-04-2025 time 06.00 PM

Director
SWACH PROJECT UDAIPUR
DIPR/C/4932/2025

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: - +91-674-2571444; E-mail – mdwatcoodisha@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No. WATCO(W)-2/2025-26, Dtd.11.04.2025
WATCO No.2675, Date: 11.04.2025

1.	Name of the work	: Provision for Laying of Water Supply pipe line to RITI Building along with improvement of water supply of ROTI campus including Laying of 250mm dia. Rising Main from Ghatikia MBR to Sampur Pumping Station under WATCO Section Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar.
2.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.566.09 Lakh
3.	Period of completion	: 09 (Nine) Months
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of Dt.16.04.2025 to 5.00 PM of 30.04.2025
5.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 30.04.2025
6.	Date & Time of opening of technical bids	: 12.30 PM of 02.05.2025
7.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: MD, WATCO, Telefax:- 0674-2391444. E-mail : mdwatcoodisha@gmail.com

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Managing Director, WATCO
C-87: OIPR-13083/11/0006/2526

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
VILLUPURAM HIGHWAYS, (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE
Tender Notice
T.N.NO. 1/2025-26 / HDO. DATED : 15.04.2025

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Schedule tender through online under Two Cover System** will be received upto **28.05.2025, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for CRIDP 2024-25 One work for Villupuram (H) C&M Division (VPM-091).

Detail of work, approximate value of work, EMD (EMD through online payment Gateway of the Portal only) availability of tender document and all other details are available from **23.04.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in**. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only

Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M Circle, Villupuram
DIPR/ 1523 /TENDER/2025

INBRIEF

In a first, Railways conducts trial of ATM on moving train

In a first, the Railways has initiated trials of an automated teller machine (ATM) aboard the Panchvati Express, in coordination with the Bank of Maharashtra. Under the initiative by the Central Railway's Bhusawal division, an ATM kiosk was installed in an unutilised space in one of the coaches on the Manmad-Mumbai train. The move is also aimed at generating non-fare revenue. Officials are keen that the train with 22 coaches, with full capacity of 2,016 passengers, uses the facility as much as possible. "The idea of installing ATMs on trains stemmed from a customer interaction meet held by the Bhusawal division," said a Central Railway official.

ED questions Vadra again over Haryana land deal case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned Robert Vadra, the husband of senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, for the second consecutive day on Wednesday in connection with the 2008 Haryana land deal case. He has been summoned again on Thursday. Mr. Vadra, who reached the agency office with Ms. Vadra, described the questioning as "political vendetta". The case is related to a land deal in Shikohpur of Gurugram concluded in 2008 by a company, Skylight Hospitality, where Mr. Vadra was earlier a director. It is alleged that the State government, then under Bhupinder Singh Hooda of the Congress, gave nod to Skylight for a commercial project on the land in alleged violation of rules.

HC grants Kamra interim protection from arrest

Division Bench reserves order on petition by comedian against FIR registered against him for remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde; arguments conclude in case

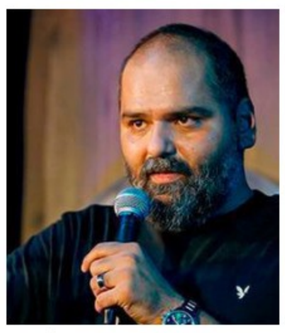
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday reserved its order on a petition by comedian Kunal Kamra seeking quashing of the first information report registered against him over his alleged remarks on Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

A Division Bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and Shriram Modak directed the Mumbai Police not to arrest the comedian till order is passed in the matter.

"Arguments in the matter are concluded. As agreed by the Public Prosecutor, the summons was issued to him (Kunal Kamra) under Section 35(3) BNSS, which specifically refers to notice where arrest of the person is not required. In that background, the question of arresting the petitioner does not arise. The matter is reserved for orders and till then, the petitioner shall not be arrested," the Bench said.

During the hearing that lasted for more than four hours, senior advocate Navroz Seervai, for Mr. Kamra, said the criminal justice system in the country was being misused by political groups to terrorise a person.


Kunal Kamra

'FIR filed in haste'

Mr. Seervai urged the Bench to pay attention to the timeline of the case to understand how the FIR was filed by the Mumbai Police in haste.

He said the complainant, MLA Murji Kanji Patel, received the video of the show, where the remarks were allegedly made, at 9.30 p.m. on March 23. He filed a complaint at 10.45 p.m. and the FIR was lodged at 11.52 p.m.

Mr. Seervai said that before registering an FIR, a preliminary inquiry is required to be conducted by the police under Section 173(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Mr. Seervai said the police were pressuring his client to appear physically for questioning despite being aware of the death threats he was facing. "There are posters openly saying, 'Will kill you, cut you into pieces once you step in Mumbai.' Yet the police have been insisting on his physical presence for questioning. This is a complete witch hunt."

Talking about freedom of speech, Mr. Seervai said the authorities had completely disregarded Article 19 of the Constitution.

Public prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar, representing the State government and the Mumbai Police, argued that there was a fine line between humorous criticism and malicious targeting. "When an artist, a stand-up comedian, puts up their piece or show, their criticism should fall within the tenor of humorous criticism. When they are targeting one individual it does not fall in bracket of humorous criticism; it is malicious targeting," he said.

Stand-up is now shortcut to fame, says RSS wing

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing row over comedian Kunal Kamra's show, the cultural wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has passed a resolution on the need to "re-establish Indian values in comedy genres".

Sanskar Bharti, which works to promote Indian art forms, expressed deep concern over the declining levels of performance in stand-up and other comedy shows. While this medium could be a tool for strong social reforms, it was actually becoming a race for a "shortcut to fame", Sanskar Bharati said in a resolution passed at its meeting on April 11.

"Under the guise of freedom of expression, artists try to gain popularity by mocking religious symbols and [engaging in] satirical criticism of national heroes," it said.

A bulldozer being used to demolish a dargah in Nashik district of Maharashtra on Wednesday. PTI

Nashik civic body razes 'illegal' dargah hours before SC stay

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Nashik Municipal Corporation demolished a decades-old dargah, which was declared an illegal construction early on Wednesday morning, hours before the Supreme Court granted a stay on the demolition. The court also issued notice to the Corporation while posting the matter for hearing on April 21.

The demolition followed a night of clashes between stone-throwing protesters and the city police who used tear gas and resorted to lathicharge to quell them.

At least 21 police officers were injured and three police vehicles damaged. The police arrested 15 protesters, registered an FIR against 500 to 1,000 unknown people, and confiscated 70 two-wheelers from the location.

15-day notice given

The demolition took place in accordance with a Bombay High Court order terming the dargah illegal. The action was taken after serving a 15-day notice, Nashik Municipal Commissioner Manisha Khatri told *The Hindu*.

However, trustees of the dargah claim that the administration rushed to demolish the dargah "to create communal tension" even though they knew that the matter was to be heard by the Supreme Court. "The dargah land was under litigation since the year 2000," a trustee of the dargah told *The Hindu*.

Almonds rein in weight, cholesterol and hypertension, confirms study

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Recent meta-analyses of studies on the benefits of consuming almonds published in a peer-reviewed journal have shown that the tree nut does leave an ameliorative impact in a multitude of sectors.

The results suggest that almond consumption results in small reductions in weight, LDL cholesterol and diastolic blood pressure, as well as improved glycaemic responses in Asian Indians.

These results were published recently in a paper, "Current scientific evidence and research strategies in the role of almonds in cardiometabolic health", in the peer-reviewed journal *Current Developments in Nutrition Perspective*.

The analyses of multiple studies showed that almond consumption does not lead to weight gain, and may even contribute to reduction in body weight at doses of about 50 grams a day.

Almonds lower LDL cholesterol, says the new paper. ISTOCK

The authors from the U.S., Canada, France and India argued that almonds have an impact on lowering cholesterol, though it depends on the dose (over 50 g a day), and for how long it is eaten (10 weeks). Almond consumption results in a small but significant reduction in LDL cholesterol by approximately 5 g/dL (or about 5%) for the general population, including those at risk of chronic diseases.

Anoop Misra, senior diabetologist from the Fortis C-DOC Center for Diabetes, Obesity, Metabolic Diseases, and Endocrinology, New Delhi, explains that almonds contain several components that are believed to contribute to the cholesterol-lowering properties, "including Beta-Sitosterol for which there is well-established evidence of lowering LDL cholesterol levels; monounsaturated fats (67%); polyunsaturated fats (11%); and dietary fibre (11%)."

The analyses, which was funded by the Almond Board of California, also states that with a daily dose of almonds, Asian Indians with prediabetes can achieve a significant reduction in fasting blood glucose and HbA1C.

Dr. Misra adds some context: "Previously, our group examined over three months, the effect of having 20 g of almonds 30 minutes before each major meal on prediabetes. We found significant improvements in body weight, waist circumference, glycaemic control (particularly postprandial hyperglycemia), and insulin resistance. Notably, 23.3% of participants in the group showed reversal from prediabetes to normal glucose regulation, comparable to results seen with Acarbose medication (25%)."

"My advice is to have almonds, half a fistful each in the morning and evening. For people with diabetes, they can have it as a snack between meals or 30 minutes before meals," he says.

Former RAW chief Dulat's book leaves Farooq in a spot of bother

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The new book of former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief A.S. Dulat has raised a political storm in Jammu and Kashmir over references to National Conference (NC) patriarch Farooq Abdullah's stand on Article 370. Borrowing the phrase "recollections may vary" of Queen Elizabeth, Mr. Abdulalh on Wednesday rejected the remarks and termed them "baseless".

In the book *The Chief Minister and the Spy*, Mr. Dulat, considered close to the Abdullahs, described the former Chief Minister as one "who was extremely open about his willingness to work with Delhi". "Maybe, he [Farooq] said, the NC could even have had the proposal [to withdraw J&K's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution] passed in the Legislative Assembly in J&K. 'We would have helped,' he told me in 2020. 'Why were we not taken into confidence?'" Mr. Dulat quotes Mr. Abdullah in the book.

Farooq Abdullah and A.S. Dulat at the oath-taking of Omar Abdullah as J&K Chief Minister in Srinagar in 2024. IMRAN NISSAR

He further observed: "Farooq is a contradiction himself! To my mind, this remark in 2020 just highlighted his great practicality under the most appalling political and popular pressure."

The revelations had hit hard Mr. Abdullah and the Omar Abdullah government in J&K as the party championed the cause of restoration of Article 370 during the 2024 Assembly election in J&K.

Facing an outcry, the NC patriarch said the book was "full of inaccuracies". "On many accounts, it's baseless," he told pressperssons in Srinagar.

He said Mr. Dulat's remarks on counselling him to contest the 1996 election and keeping the Cabinet small "is factually incorrect".

Crafted image, says PDP

Opposition parties criticised Mr. Abdullah over the book. "The fiery speeches, the staged outrage, the carefully crafted image of "fighting the BJP" – it was all theatre," said Peoples Democratic Party leader and legislator Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra.

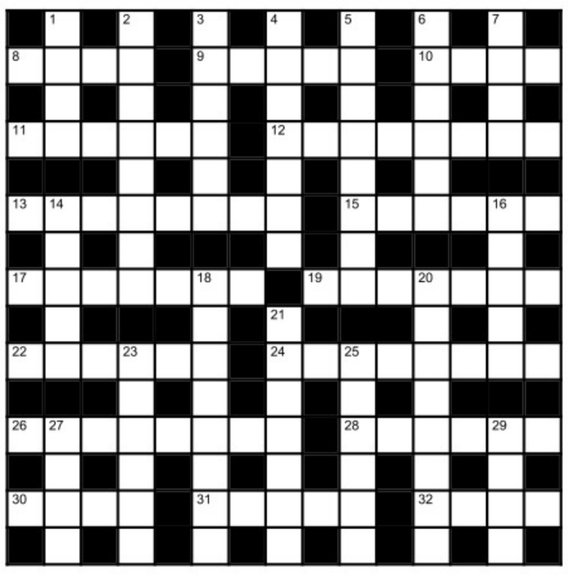
Mr. Dulat said it was sad that the book, "which is in praise of Dr. Abdullah", was getting negative attention for a few paragraphs. "He always stood by India. He was heartbroken by the abrogation of Article 370 and he wanted to be taken into confidence," Mr. Dulat told *The Hindu*.

TH CROSSWORD + 14461

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Expensive honey (4)
9 After getting rid of first date, newly married woman, hugs bridegroom initially giving a sweetener (5)
10 A portion of manure and fertilizer (4)
11 Stain part of plant (6)
12 Officially informed movement of tide info (8)
13 Counter in church yard showing where the bodies are buried (8)
15 Not scientist? (6)
17 Plant agent gets at end of journey (7)
19 City in Washington and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir? Insane! (7)
22 Fix at territorial army church (6)
24 Nude dancing carrying resinous substance! Mad! (8)
26 Dig up ancient tool at first in old grotto (8)
28 Intelligence agency crazy to cover The Office of Strategic Services (6)
30 Girl has extraordinarily deep and long cut (4)
31 Pricked gnus returning around end of night (5)
32 Round shaped corral is not closed (4)

Down

1 Following old flame in book (4)
2 Footmen hold old cloth and type of shirt piece (8)
3 Roughen up damaged brake pad without using pressure at weekend (6)
4 Disney's worried about king's organs (7)
5 Worn and taken in in pub on return (6-2)
6 Some followed mongrel in time of restricted movement (6)
7 Only a part of summer exhibition (4)
14 Old piece of legislation is perfect (5)
16 Snow leopard jumps without a hint of panic and loses some stability (5)
18 Practise on vehicle carrying coffin (8)
20 Some hardworking stonemasons somewhere in Jamaica (8)
21 Eliminate our lute which is broken (4,3)
23 Indian father engulfed in pain (6)
25 Residence possessing silver gets respect, perhaps (6)
27 Kiss Sam on return for festival (4)
29 Top gorilla cross? (4)

SUDOKU

9		3	2		7			
		5				7	3	
		2		6				5
	9				3	8		
	6						9	
		8	6				1	
2				8		3		
	4	9				6		
			4		5	1		8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6492 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

M	A	P	M	A	K	E	R	
A		O		M		R	V	
S	T	R	I	P		O	V	E
T		T		L		S		R
S	U	F	F	E	R		L	Y
		O				A		L
D	E	L	F	T		U	T	I
I		I		O		S		G
S	T	O	P	W	A	T	C	H
A				E		R		T
P	R	A	N	D	I	A	L	
P		E		A		L		T
E	R	S	T	W	H	I	L	E
A		O		A		A		A
R	E	P	A	Y	S		P	R

A	S	W	E	L	L			
	T		R		E			
O	V	E	R	R	E	A	C	T
	A		T		H			
L	Y	M	P	H	O	M	A	
	P				R			
U	T	I	L	I	S	I	N	G
	N		O		I			
	G	E	N	I	C			
		I						
P	S	Y	C	H	O			
	U		B		B			
	M	O	O	R	E			
	A		N		Y			
P	R	E	C	E	D	E	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	6	4	3	9	2	8	7
2	4	3	7	1	8	5	9	6
7	9	8	5	2	6	4	3	1
4	1	5	8	6	3	7	2	9
8	6	9	2	7	4	1	5	3
3	2	7	9	5	1	6	4	8
9	7	2	1	8	5	3	6	4
5	3	4	6	9	7	8	1	2
6	8	1	3	4	2	9	7	5

FAITH

Protection of devotees

Saranagata rakshana is Rama's vrata, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. In other words, He will always save those who surrender to Him. And in this protection of devotees, Sita assists Him. That is why Janaka said at the time of Her marriage – *sahadharmacharee tava* – She will be Your (Rama's) support in carrying out dharma. Periavachan Pillai gave evidence from Valmiki's work to show the age at which Rama married, the age at which He departed for the forest etc. He says Rama was only 12 when He married Sita. In the Sundara Kanda, sarga 33, Sita says to Hanuman – *samaa dvaadasa tatra aham raghavasya nivesanE* (I stayed in Rama's house for 12 years).

And then in the 13th year, talks about His coronation begin, resulting eventually in His exile. When Ravana approaches Sita, prior to abducting Her, She tells him about the time when Rama was exiled – "*mama bharthaa mahaa tejaa vayasaa pancha vimsakaha*. (My great, resplendent husband was 25 years old). So Rama was 12 when He married, and 25 when He and Sita left for the forest.

When Rama tells Sita that She should stay safe in the palace in Ayodhya while He is in the forest, She protests. She says She will walk ahead of Rama in the forest, clearing the path of thorns and stones. When Rama still does not agree, She wonders what Her father will say of his son-in-law, if the latter is not sure of His ability to protect His wife. This is all a part of Her supporting His dharma.

Sadhus have to be saved and for this Ravana has to be killed. This can happen only if She is carried away by Ravana. Therefore, She allows Herself to be abducted, so that Rama's devotees can be saved.

INBRIEF

India's trade deficit with China widens to record $99.2 billion

India recorded a trade deficit of $99.2 billion with China in the 2024-25 fiscal year ended in March, trade data showed, driven by a surge in imports of electronics goods and consumer durables. The data comes as U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause last week on most tariff hikes for major trading partners including India, while sharply increasing levies on Chinese goods, stoking fears that Chinese firms may divert goods to other markets. REUTERS

Yes Bank receives ₹244-crore demand notice from I-T dept.

Yes Bank on Wednesday said it had received a demand notice of ₹244.20 crore for assessment year 2016-17. The reassessment order considered the income reported in the return of income instead of assessed income, for computing the reassessed income and tax thereon, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. Towards this, on April 15, the Jurisdictional Assessing Officer, passed the rectification order rectifying the mistake and recomputed the tax demand, it said. PTI

Zaggle Prepaid secures TPAP licence from NPCI

Spend management company Zaggle Prepaid Ocean Services on Wednesday said it has secured a third-party application provider approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) that will enable it to offer UPI-based payment solutions directly via its platform. The TPAP licence enables it to offer a comprehensive financial suite that combines payments, expense management, tax-saving tools and value-added financial services within a single interface.

WTO forecasts global merchandise trade to fall 0.2% amid tariff tensions

Trade could shrink even further to 1.5% in 2025, if the situation deteriorates, it says in the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report; this will be in sharp contrast to 2024, when the volume of world merchandise trade grew by 2.9%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Wednesday revised sharply its global merchandise trade volume growth forecast for 2025 – from a continued expansion it had expected when the year dawned – to a decline by 0.2%, amid fears over the U.S. tariff developments.

The volume of world merchandise trade is expected to decline by 0.2% under current conditions, which would be nearly three percentage points lower than what would have been expected under a low tariff baseline scenario, it said. Trade could shrink even further to 1.5% in 2025, if the situation deteriorates, it said in the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report. This will be in sharp contrast to 2024 when the volume grew by 2.9%. Risks to the merchandise trade forecast persist, WTO said. If the U.S. goes ahead with the reciprocal tariffs, it expects the move would reduce global merchandise trade volume growth by 0.6 percentage points this year. Additionally, the spreading trade policy uncertainty could shave off another 0.8 percentage points. Together, reciprocal tariffs and spreading trade policy uncertainty would lead to a 1.5% decline in world merchandise trade in 2025, WTO said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said it expected global growth to slow to 2.3% in 2025. This will mark a shift toward a recessionary path. Subdued demand, trade policy shocks, financial turbulence and systemic uncertainty are bound to intensify pressures, particularly for developing countries.

Solid blow
A slide under current conditions, would be three percentage points lower than expected under a low tariff baseline scenario

- If U.S. goes ahead with reciprocal tariffs, global merchandise trade volume growth may reduce by 0.6 percentage points this year
- Additionally, the spreading trade policy uncertainty could shave off another 0.8 percentage points

Bangladesh restricts import of yarn from India via land

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Bangladesh has restricted import of yarn from India through its land ports via an order dated April 13.

India exported cotton yarn worth $1.6 billion in 2024 and manmade fibre (MMF) yarn worth nearly $85 million.

On April 25, India rescinded its 2020 order that permitted transhipment of goods from Bangladesh through its Land Customs Stations to third countries, citing congestion at its ports. According to Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director of Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, close to 32% of yarn exported to Bangladesh is by land. "The restrictions imposed on the export of cotton yarn is a matter of deep concern," he said.

Textile mills in the north, prefer to ship by land as it is cost effective. SIVA SARAVANAN S

Textile mills in the north, especially the small and medium scale units, prefer to ship by land as it is cost effective. They will now have to export through the Mundra, Thoothukudi, or Nhava Sheva ports, which will lead to higher costs.

Rakesh Mehra, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said the recent suspension of imports of cotton yarn from India by Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue will have a serious impact on India's cotton yarn exports to Bangladesh.

Starlink executives meet Goyal amid pending approvals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Executives of the satellite internet provider Starlink, owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, met Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Wednesday, Mr. Goyal said in a post on X.

Pictured with Mr. Goyal and other government officials were Starlink's India market access director Parnil Urdhwareshe, vice-president of business operations Chad Gibbs, and senior director for global licensing and market activation Ryan Goodnight.

It is unclear if the visiting executives and Mr. Urdhwareshe also met with officials from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) or the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), who are examining the firm's satellite internet authorisation and setting the prices for spectrum, respectively.

Even with Starlink's distribution deals announced last month with Bharti Airtel and Jio Platforms there has been little movement on the firm's authorisation to operate in India.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,044	0.40
US Dollar	85.64	0.18
Gold	98,100	1.71
Brent oil	65.81	2.18

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2415.60	-2.60
Adani Ports	1232.90	22.10
Apollo Hosp	7005.50	100.50
Asian Paints	2459.90	44.20
Axis Bank	1161.30	48.50
Bajaj Auto	7961.50	-34.00
Bajaj Finserv	1969.20	1.20
Bajaj Finance	9056.50	-84.50
Bharat Elec	293.60	-0.10
Bharti Airtel	1822.60	23.80
Cipla	1496.40	14.60
Coal India	399.25	4.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1158.40	3.50
Eicher Motors	5615.50	86.50
Eternal Ltd.	222.08	-0.15
Grasim Ind	2702.80	-15.80
HCL Tech	1431.70	5.20
HDFC Bank	1878.00	13.10
HDFC Life	716.05	11.35
Hero MotoCorp	3781.90	-22.00
Hindalco	609.90	-7.70
Hind Unilever	2366.60	5.10
ICICI Bank	1356.40	6.20
IndusInd Bank	788.25	52.35
Infosys	1413.10	-12.90
ITC	424.45	4.05
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	242.28	3.71
JSW Steel	1009.40	1.40
Kotak Bank	2123.40	3.20
L&T	3227.70	-29.90
M&M	2634.60	-11.40
Maruti Suzuki	11664.00	-191.00
NestleIndia	2383.30	15.40
NTPC	359.30	-3.20
ONGC	241.22	8.53
PowerGrid Corp	305.75	1.20
Reliance Ind	1239.30	-0.80
SBI Life	1565.40	2.80
State Bank	771.75	8.25
Shriram Finance Ltd.	676.05	4.05
Sun Pharma	1693.10	-11.90
TataConsumerProduct	1105.90	2.50
Tata Motors	616.05	-6.15
Tata Steel	136.97	0.56
TCS	3273.80	25.60
Tech Mahindra	1308.70	7.00
Titan	3272.10	-1.30
Trent Ltd.	5035.50	158.50
UltraTech Cement	11728.00	9.00
Wipro	247.65	3.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.48	85.80
Euro	97.10	97.45
British Pound	113.44	113.87
Japanese Yen (100)	59.91	60.14
Chinese Yuan	11.70	11.75
Swiss Franc	104.70	105.10
Singapore Dollar	65.05	65.30
Canadian Dollar	61.42	61.66
Malaysian Ringitt	19.37	19.47
Australian Dollar	54.49	54.70

Source:Indian Bank

Wipro Q4 net rises 26% to ₹3,570 cr., cuts revenue guidance for Q1 FY26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro reported a 26% year-on-year rise in Q4 net profit to ₹3,570 crore.

Revenue grew 1% to ₹22,504 crore. IT services revenue slid 2.3% to $2,596.5 million. FY25 revenue slid 0.7% to ₹89,090 crore. Net income for FY25 rose 19% to ₹13,140 crore.

The tech firm claimed it was seeing continuous momentum in large deals signing 63 such deals for the full year valued at $5.4 billion, a 17.5% growth with 17 large deals in Q4 alone valued at $1.8 billion, taking total deal value to $14.3 billion, a 3.8% decline.

"Wipro posted modest QoQ growth of 0.8% in Q4 in constant currency, largely due to subdued discretionary spending and global economic headwinds. Despite this, the outlook remains positive, driven by a strong deal pipeline and early signs of recovery in key sectors like BFSI and healthcare, which could help offset weakness in slower-performing industries," Biswajit Maity, senior principal analyst at Gartner told *The Hindu*.

Wipro refused to give any outlook for hiring for FY26.

Clients 'cautious'

Wipro CEO and MD Srini Pallia said, "As clients remain cautious in the face of macroeconomic uncertainty, we're focused on partnering closely with them while staying committed to consistent and profitable growth."

He said Wipro was watching out for changes to discretionary spending amid global uncertainties surrounding tariffs.

"A measured approach by clients is expected going forward given the current market environment. Things are changing week by week and clients are doing situational planning," he commented.

Revenue guidance

Citing tariff-driven uncertainty in customer markets, Wipro lowered its revenue guidance for the April-June period – a sequential guidance of (-) 3.5% to (-) 1.5% in constant currency terms against its fourth quarter guidance in the range of -1% to 1%.

"We expect revenue from IT Services business in the range of $2,505 million to $2,557 million in the June quarter," it said.

Wipro said it onboarded 10,000 freshers from campuses in FY25, however, refused to give any outlook for hiring for FY26.

During Q4, Wipro saw voluntary attrition of 15%, on trailing 12-month basis.

'Freight rates may surge 30% as containers pile up in China ports on Trump's tariff wars'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The escalating trade tensions between the U.S. and China have significantly disrupted global shipping operations with freight rates expected to surge by 30%, say analysts.

"The imposition of steep tariffs – 145% by the U.S. on Chinese imports and 125% by China in retaliation– has led to a substantial slowdown in cargo movement," said Rohit Chaturvedi, partner, transport & logistics, Forvis Mazars, a global professional company.

The proposed $1 million fee on China-built vessels docking at U.S. ports is also a negative.

"Major Chinese ports like Shanghai and Guangdong are experiencing severe congestion, with containers piling up due to cancelled orders and rerouted shipments.".

"Spot shipping rates between China and U.S. East Coast have surged, while rates to West Coast have also risen. Also, the proposed $1 million fee on China-built vessels docking at U.S. ports threatens to further destabilise maritime trade, potentially bringing international shipping to a standstill."

Jitendra Srivastava, CEO, Triton Logistics & Maritime said the volume of containers stuck in China would put the entire global supply chain at risk.

"This will cause freight rates to rise," he added.

Drone start-up Garuda raises ₹100 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Garuda Aerospace, a drone start-up, said it has raised ₹100 crore in Series B funding round from Venture Catalysts (VCAT) at a valuation of $250 million.

The fresh funds are expected to enhance the company's capabilities in producing drone systems.

The funds would also be allocated to scaling up its current production facility and fast-tracking the completion of a cutting-edge R&D and testing centre dedicated to advanced defence drone design, the firm said in a statement.

Alcohol to Metabolic Dysfunction: The Silent Shift in Liver Disease

Most of us don't think much about our liver – until something goes wrong. It's not an organ that gets the spotlight, like the heart or brain. But quietly and constantly, it processes what we eat, drink, and even breathe. And quietly, it can begin to struggle without a single symptom.

What's changing now is the reason why.
For years, liver disease was mostly associated with alcohol. But alcohol is not the only culprit. Around the world – and very much in India – the bigger concern is fatty liver caused by poor metabolic health. Doctors now call it MASLD: Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. It reflects a shift in how liver damage begins – and who it affects.

Not Just About Alcohol

Apollo's recent Health of the Nation 2025 report, based on data from over 2.5 lakh individuals who underwent preventive health checks, paints a worrying picture: 65% had signs of fatty liver. Even more telling – 85% of those with fatty liver did not consume alcohol. Instead, the drivers were metabolic-related: weight gain, rising blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol.

In fact, among people with diabetes, 82% had fatty liver. Among those who were obese, 76% had the same. Even people with prediabetes weren't spared – 70% had liver fat building up silently. The liver, it turns out, is less of an isolated organ and more of a mirror reflecting the broader state of our metabolic health.

54% of women had fatty liver before menopause and this jumped to 70% post-menopause – indicating how hormonal shifts can worsen metabolic health and affect the liver.

Dr Sandeep Satsangi
Senior Consultant Hepatologist and Liver Transplant Physician
Apollo Hospitals, BG Road, Bengaluru

Here's how metabolism affects the liver: When we gain weight – especially belly fat (visceral fat) – or when blood sugar and insulin levels rise, the body begins to store more fat. This happens not just under the skin, but also around and inside organs. Fat builds up in liver cells, which triggers low-grade inflammation. What starts as simple fat in the liver can gradually lead to scarring (fibrosis), and eventually cirrhosis, which is permanent liver damage.

Why Routine Tests Aren't Enough

The other problem is - a substantial percentage (52%) of people with fatty liver had normal liver enzymes. This means that their routine blood reports looked fine, giving no reason for further testing. However, an ultrasound of the liver revealed otherwise. It's not that liver function tests aren't useful, but in the early stages of fatty liver, enzymes – alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) – can remain completely normal. This means we can't rely only on blood work. A simple, non-invasive ultrasound, however, can reveal fat accumulation in the liver much earlier, often before any symptoms appear.

The Good News

Fatty liver, if caught early, is reversible. That's what makes awareness and screening so important. If you have diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, or even just excess belly fat (>90 cm for men, >80 cm for women), it may be time to check your liver. An annual health check that includes both blood work and imaging offer a clearer view.

Scan to read Apollo's Health of the Nation 2025 report

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in
with your name, city and query.

WASHINGTON

U.S. judge finds 'probable cause' to hold Trump admin in contempt

AFP

A federal judge on Wednesday found "probable cause" to hold the Trump administration in criminal contempt for defying a court order halting deportation flights of alleged Venezuelan gang members to El Salvador. The administration vowed an immediate appeal, escalating a major legal and political clash. AFP

WASHINGTON

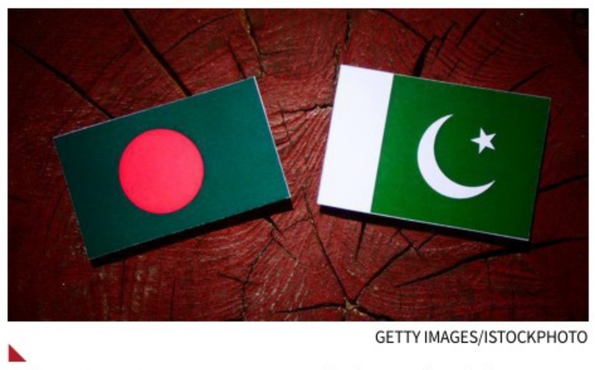
Biden slams Trump 'destruction' in first post-presidency speech

REUTERS

In his first major speech since leaving office, Joe Biden on Tuesday criticised Donald Trump's administration for harming Social Security, citing staff cuts and website failures. He warned these changes threaten retirement benefits for millions, calling Social Security a "sacred promise" vital to Americans. AFP

DHAKA

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary lands in Dhaka for first talks in 15 years



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday for the first Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) with Bangladesh in 15 years. Her talks with Bangladesh counterpart M. Jashim Uddin will aim at reviving bilateral ties and trade. The last FOC between Bangladesh and Pakistan was in 2010. PTI

JERUSALEM

Israeli troops will remain in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria indefinitely: Katz

REUTERS

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz announced on Wednesday that troops will remain indefinitely in security zones in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. This stance complicates ceasefire and hostage talks with Hamas, as Palestinians and neighbours view the troop presence as occupation and demand a full Israeli withdrawal for any deal. AP

Trump orders tariff probe on critical mineral imports

The order directs Commerce Secretary to conduct a probe and produce recommendations on strengthening domestic production of critical minerals and reducing dependence on imports

Sriram Lakshman

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday ordered a trade-related probe into the risks to U.S. national security from reliance on processed critical minerals and their derivatives. The order directs U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to conduct a probe under Section 232 of the U.S.'s Trade Expansion 1962 and to produce recommendations on strengthening domestic production and reducing dependence on foreign suppliers.

Any Section 232 tariffs that are the result of the critical mineral probe would replace the April 2 reciprocal tariffs, a White House 'fact sheet' on the probe said. Mr. Trump imposed a universal 10% tariff on all goods coming into the U.S, with higher rates for certain countries which ran surpluses in goods trade with the U.S. Mr. Trump had already imposed steel and aluminium tariffs under Section 232 in his first term.

Home growth: Donald Trump imposed a universal 10% tariff on all goods coming into the U.S, with higher rates for some countries. AFP

In describing the basis for the probe, the White House note singles out China, the largest extractor and producer or rare earth minerals. Beijing and Washington are in the midst of a trade skirmish and rounds of tit-for-tat tariffs which has resulted in a general tariff rate of 145% for Chinese goods entering the U.S. and 125% for American goods entering China. Two days after Mr. Trump's ' Liberation Day' tariff announcement on April 2, China had suspended the export of a range of rare earth metals and magnets.

Beijing was attempting to "choke off supplies of components central to automakers, aerospace manufacturers, semiconductor companies and military contractors around the world," the White House note said.

"China now faces up to a 245% tariff on imports to the United States as a result of its retaliatory actions," the 'fact sheet' notes.

A White House official clarified this was not the announcement of a new rate but the result of aggregating existing and recently announced tariffs.

"...The reciprocal tariff adds onto fentanyl tariffs and then onto existing Section 301 tariffs from the first Trump administration and the Biden administration – which range from about 7.5% to 100% – depending on the product," the official told *The Hindu* via email, citing electric vehicles and syringes as an example of Chinese products that have outstanding Section 301 tariffs of 100%. "So those products from China are hit with a total tariff of around 245% after you factor in the fentanyl tariff and reciprocal tariff rates, from which neither product is excluded," the official said.

Beijing appoints a new trade negotiator

Associated Press
TAIPEI

China appointed a new trade negotiator on Wednesday in the midst of its tariff fight with the United States as the world's two largest economies steadily increase tariffs on each other's goods.

China's government said Li Chenggang replaces Wang Shouwen, who participated in negotiations for the countries' 2020 trade deal.

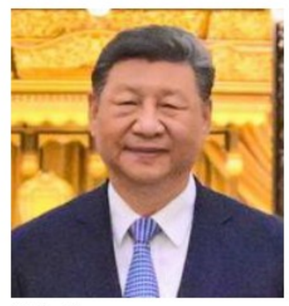
The decision comes as Chinese officials say the country has multiple options to respond to U.S. actions, including relying more on its own market and on Europe and countries in the global south.

Xi welcomes more goods from Malaysia, Vietnam

Associated Press
BANGKOK

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has promised Malaysia and Vietnam greater access to Chinese markets as he tours Southeast Asia this week.

"China welcomes more high-quality agricultural products from Malaysia to enter the Chinese market and encourages Chinese companies to invest and start businesses in Malaysia," Mr. Xi said in his meeting with Malaysia's king, Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, on Wednesday, according to the official *Xinhua News*. He also mentioned further developing cooperation in green tech and artificial intelligence.



Xi Jinping

Mr. Xi's tour comes after U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff announcements disrupted the global economy last week, and he has used the trip to promote Beijing as a source of stability in the region. It is also a chance for Beijing to shore up its own relationships in the region and look for ways to mitigate the 145% tariffs that Mr. Trump has kept on China, even as he paused tariffs for other countries.

Mr. Xi kicked off his tour with a state visit to Vietnam, and arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, for a three-day visit on Tuesday. He met with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Wednesday.

In Hanoi, Mr. Xi had a meeting with Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary To Lam, as well as senior leaders including the President and Prime Minister. China and Vietnam signed a series of memorandums on cooperation in supply chains and a joint railway project, and Mr. Xi also promised greater access for Vietnamese agricultural exports to China, although few details were made public.

'Afghanistan ready for repatriation of its citizens'

Press Trust of India
PESHAWAR

Afghan Consul General in Peshawar Hafiz Mohibullah Shakir said on Wednesday that Afghanistan has completed preparations for the repatriation of its citizens residing in Pakistan and a special commission has been established to facilitate the process.

Mr. Mohibullah said that camps have been set up for the return of Afghan citizens and all necessary facilities are being provided.

Children among eleven killed in Israeli air strikes

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency reported that Israeli air strikes in the early hours of Wednesday killed at least 11 people, including women and children.

A pre-dawn air strike in Gaza City killed 10 people, including several women and children, according to civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal.

In a separate attack, a child was killed in Khan Younis, rescue teams said.

Definition of woman is based on biological sex: U.K. court

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The legal definition of a woman is based on biological sex, the U.K.'s Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday. The unanimous ruling, which is victory for those who want gender to be based on biological sex and a blow for transgender rights, should not be seen as a victory of one group over another, the court said. The ruling is the outcome of a protracted six-year legal battle between the Scottish government and women's rights group For Women Scotland (FWS) over the U.K.'s Equality Act, 2010. "....the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act (2010) refer to a biological woman and biological sex," Supreme Court Justice Patrick Hodge said on Wednesday.

"But we counsel against reading this judgment as the triumph of one or more groups in our society at the expense of another. It is not," he added, explaining that transgender people are protected by the same Act against discrimination through the protected category of 'gender reassignment' but also against discrimination and harassment, in substance, in their acquired gender.

FWS had taken the Scottish government to court in 2018 over the inclusion of transwomen in the definition of "woman" with regard to a law mandating representation for women on public boards (of directors). A Scottish court had said the matter was beyond its jurisdiction. The Scottish government had responded by issuing guidance that said an individual with a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) in the female gender could be used to define the term 'woman'. On Wednesday, the court ruled that the Scottish government's guidance was incorrect.

Supreme Court in London.

"This is a deeply concerning ruling for human rights and a huge blow to some of the most marginalised people in our society," trans rights campaigner and Scottish Greens lawmaker, Maggie Chapman said in a statement.

"Whatever happens next, we will continue to stand with trans people and resist the nasty and aggressive culture war that is being waged against them," she added.

Trans rights group Scottish Trans urged people not to panic, adding that there would be commentary to "deliberately overstate the impact" of the decision. "Women are women and men are men: you cannot change your biological sex," Leader of the Opposition and Conservative Party chief Kemi Badenoch said.

The ruling is likely to have broad consequences for all of the U.K., with the government saying it brought "clarity and confidence" for women and service providers such as hospitals, sports clubs and shelters.

FWS co-founder Susan Smith welcomed the ruling outside the court, saying, "[Biological] sex is real and women can now feel safe that services and spaces designated for women are for women."

Author of the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling, who donated to FWS and is a vocal campaigner for basing the definition of gender on biological sex, appeared to support the ruling, posting news of the decision and positive reactions to it on social media. The U.K. judgment comes as an inflection point in long drawn-out culture wars that are being fought over gender on both sides of the Atlantic. The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump had declared in January this year that the U.S. government would recognise only two genders and these would be based on biological sex.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग–भरतपुर
क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी/निविदा/2025–26/डी– 43 दिनांक 04/04/2025

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 01/2025–26

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बजट घोषणा 2024–25 के अन्तर्गत भरतपुर संभाग के अधीन जिला करौली एवं धौलपुर में 03 पुल व सडक निर्माण कार्य के लिऐ उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेवसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेवसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक हैं।

NIB No.- PWD2526A0051, UBN No.- PWD2526WLOB00130
UBN No.- PWD2526WLOB00132, UBN No.- PWD2526WLOB00134

DIPR/C/4903/2025

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCE & CANAL CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE BANSWARA
No.-Actt./2025-26/100 Dated:- 04/04/2025

E-NIT NO. 01/2025-26

Under this Office Bids for the following works are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM, dated 27.04.2025

NIB No. WRD2526A0017

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs.)	UBN NO.
1.	Construction of anicut on Nallah at Bilyarundi and Kandatapra Gram Bilyarundi GP Narayankheda Tehsil & District Pratapgarh	219.62	WRD2526WS0B00024
2.	Construction of Mamadev anicut at Badwai Tehsil Dungla District Chittorgarh	130.10	WRD2526WS0B00026

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in

Executive engineer
Pipalkhunt High Level Canal Project
Division-II Pratapgarh

DIPR/C/4924/2025

KERALA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (KSWMP)
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Invitation to Potential Consulting Firms for Market Sounding Session Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP), under the Local Self Government Department of Kerala, intends to initiate procurement process through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) and International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for the following consulting assignments:

S.No	Activities	Date	Time in Hrs
1	Environment and Social Audit for KSWMP (Pre-Bid Meeting)	25.04.2025	11:00 to 12:30
2	Project Management Services for Sanitary Landfill (SLF)	25.04.2025	12:30 to 13:30
3	Construction Supervision Consultant for Sanitary Landfill (SLF)	25.04.2025	14:30 to 15:45
4	Communication Agency for the Projects	25.04.2025	16:00 to 17:00

Ahead of the bid process, KSWMP proposes to host an hour-long online market sounding session with potential Consultant firms on the above scheduled date and time. Interested firms are encouraged to participate in the session(s) relevant to their expertise.

Further details and login information for the sessions are available at:
https://kswmp.org/notices/#
For any queries, please contact: **spmukswmp@gmail.com**

Sd/- Project Director, KSWMP
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

(D3/333/2025/I&PRD)

कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, भीलवाड़ा

क्रमांक :- तकनीकी/2025-26/172 - 181 दिनांक :- 09/04/2025

ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2025-26

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए नगर विकास न्यास, भीलवाड़ा में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में, विभिन्न विभागो में ए एवं एए श्रेणी (सिविल कार्यो) एवं विद्युत कार्यो हेतु नगर विकास न्यास, भीलवाड़ा में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में एवं विभिन्न विभागो में ई, डब्ल्यू.एस.डी.–I कैटेगरी में पंजीबद्ध संवेदको/सप्लायर्स से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया से वेब साईट **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर ऑनलाईन निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। **UBN No. : UTB2526WSOB00017 - 23**

पार्ट	निविदा की क्र.सं.	ऑनलाईन निविदा विक्रय/डाउनलोड/प्राप्ति तिथि	ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि
A	01 से 04	10.04.2025 से 23.04.2025 प्रातः 9.30 से सांय 06:00 बजे तक	24.04.2025 को दोपहर 01.00 बजे
B	05 से 07	10.04.2025 से 07.05.2025 प्रातः 9.30 से सांय 06:00 बजे तक	08.05.2025 को दोपहर 01.00 बजे

नोट :– निविदा सूचना से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है जो कि आज दिनांक को अपलोड कर दिया गया है। संवेदक द्वारा न्यास कार्यालय में निविदा विक्रय तिथि में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रातः 11.00 बजे से दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र को देखा जा सकता है।

राज.संवाद/सी/25/801 अधिशाषी अभियंता

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com

No. SGITO/e-Tender/LMO/31/2025-26 Date:15.04.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for The Following:-

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 6KL Liquid Medical Oxygen Tank on Turnkey Basis, Supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen and Supply of Medical Cylinders.

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **16.04.2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through kpp portal is **02.05.2025** upto **4:00** PM.

(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/SI/225/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Tender Notification No. 02/2025-26 DATE: 15.04.2025

Item-rate tenders, for the work in **PWD NO.1 SOUTH AND NO.2 NORTH** Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the **Contractors/ Company Empanelled in IDD**. Tender Notification are Published for **01 Service work for (Rs. 150.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.** Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

1. Pre-bid meeting at **O/o The Chief Engineers, C&B(S), Bangalore. Dt: 28.04.2025 at 11.00 AM**
2. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 14.05.2025**
3. The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **15.05.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/223/Zen/2025-26

SELF-ASSURED

I have always had self-belief, says Chahal on his match-winning spell

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"I think it was a team effort. We wanted to stay positive, take 2-3 wickets in the PowerPlay. The pitch wasn't easy. There was turn as well. I always had self-belief in myself. I always think about how to get the batters out. — PBKS leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal dwelling on the fantastic win over KKR on Tuesday.

PUNTER'S GUT

'We told the boys that small chases can sometimes be the hardest'

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting hailed his team's incredible spirit and resilience after defending a total of 111 against Kolkata Knight Riders. "The heart rate is still up. I'm 50 now and don't need more games like these. We told the boys at the halfway mark that small chases, like these, are sometimes the hardest."

NEW REALITY

Being a finisher is tough and I count 30s and 40s as 50s: Jitesh

FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

It's a difficult job to bat at No. 6, No. 7 because ever since I started finishing, I haven't scored a fifty. I was an opener. I used to enjoy raising my bat when I reached a milestone. But ever since I became a finisher, (it has mostly been)10 balls, 30 runs. 20 balls, 40 runs. These scores have become 50 for us. — RCB's Jitesh Sharma

SPEEDSTER IS BACK

Mayank joins Super Giants' camp ahead of clash against Royals

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Lucknow Super Giants speedster Mayank Yadav joined the Rishabh Pant-led side ahead of the IPL clash against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur on Saturday. Super Giants shared a video of Mayank, 22, receiving a warm welcome from the hotel staff. Mayank has been out of action since October 2024 due to a back injury.

Capitals have the last laugh in Super Over finish

Axar and Stubbs help Delhi accumulate 77 in the last five overs and reach 188; Jaiswal and Nitish provide a fitting reply as Royals match the total; host wins at a canter in one-over shootout

IPL-18

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

On a drama-filled evening at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi Capitals prevailed over Rajasthan Royals in a Super Over – the first of the season – to notch up its fifth win in six matches in the IPL's 18th edition.

In the Super Over, Royals batted first and made 11 off Mitchell Starc's five deliveries while losing Riyan Parag and Yashasvi Jaiswal to run-outs. Capitals got the job done when Tristan Stubbs pulled Sandeep Sharma for six off the fourth delivery.

That the match reached a frenetic tie-breaker was down to both teams making 188 in the allotted 20 overs.

With RR needing two runs off the last ball in a chase of 189, Dhruv Jurel flicked Starc's full delivery to Axar Patel at deep mid-wicket. But having timed his shot too well, he was run out trying to get back for the second run.

Starc was brilliant right through the 20th over, landing the ball near the blockhole and making it difficult for Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer to get under it.

Before that, Jaiswal and Nitish Rana had impressed with half-centuries. The former began the chase by dictating terms against Starc. In the Australian's second over, 19 runs were added as the left-hander cut, pulled and slogged across the line with disdain.

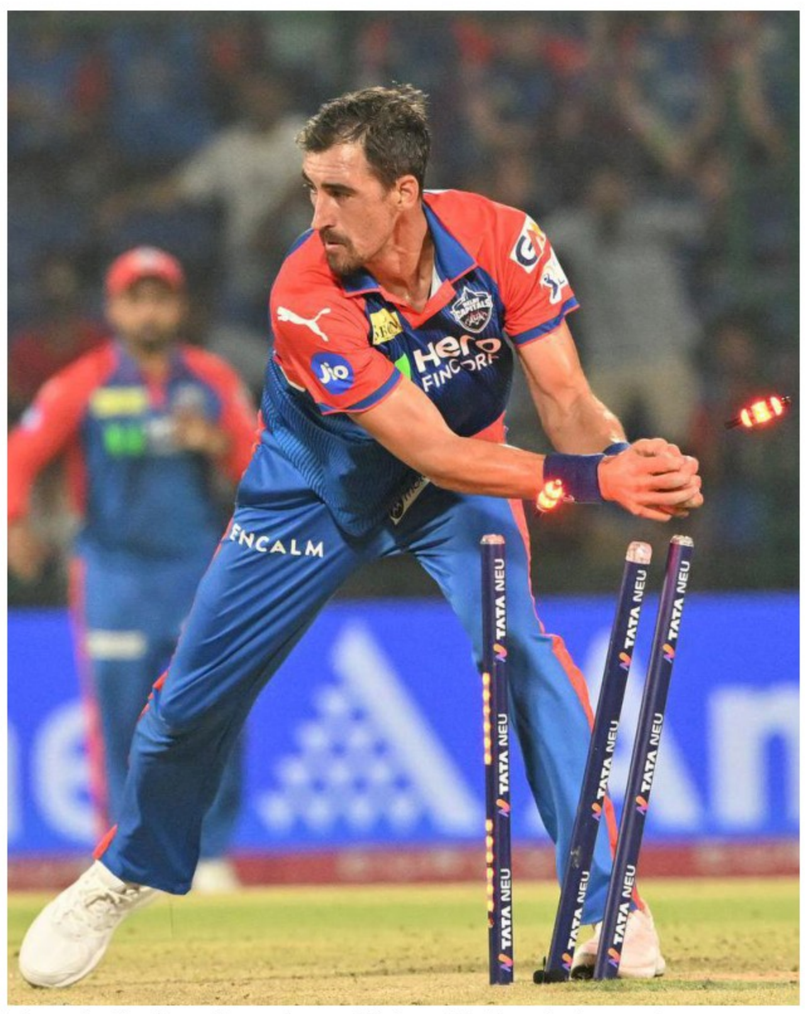
After Jaiswal fell to Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish took the lead. At the start of the 15th over, bowled by Axar, Royals needed 73 off 36 balls. Nitish made the most of the match-up by hitting the left-arm spinner for two fours and a six.

In the next over, he dispatched a long hop from Kuldeep over deep mid-wicket for a maximum. It took a searing yorker from Starc to trap Nitish leg-before.

Earlier, Axar and Stubbs produced a few lusty blows in the final five overs as Capitals reached 188 for five. On a deck where hitting through the line wasn't all that easy in the initial stages, Abishek Porel and K.L. Rahul took 57 balls to put together 63 for the third wicket.

The spark came from the lower middle-order, helping the host add 77 runs from overs 16-20.

The final over by Sandeep went for 19, the four wides and a no-ball stretching it to 11 deliveries. All that came back to haunt Royals.



Leading lights: After Axar came to DC's rescue, Starc delivered with the ball. He took the contest to a Super Over and ensured his team didn't have to chase much. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Jake Fraser-McGurk c Jaiswal b Archer 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Abishek Porel c Parag b Hasaranga 49 *(37b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Karun Nair run out 0 *(3b)*, K.L. Rahul c Hetmyer b Archer 38 *(32b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Tristan Stubbs (not out) 34 *(18b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel c Jurel b Theekshana 34 *(14b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Ashutosh Sharma (not out) 15 *(11b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-7): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 188.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-34 (Fraser-McGurk, 2.3 overs), 2-34 (Karun, 3.1), 3-97 (Rahul, 12.4), 4-105 (Porel, 13.5), 5-146 (Axar, 16.6).

ROYALS BOWLING

Archer 4-0-32-2, Deshpande 3-0-38-0, Sandeep 4-0-33-0, Theekshana 4-0-40-1, Hasaranga 4-0-38-1, Parag 1-0-6-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Starc b Kuldeep 51 *(37b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Sanju Samson retired hurt 31 *(19b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Riyan Parag b Axar 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, Nitish Rana lbw b Starc 51 *(28b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Dhruv Jurel run out 26 *(17b, 2x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 15 *(9b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-3): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 188.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-76 (Parag, 8.1), 2-112 (Jaiswal, 13.2), 3-161 (Nitish, 17.4), 4-188 (Jurel, 19.6).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Starc 4-0-36-1, Mukesh **(Impact Player for Porel)** 3-0-31-0, Mohit 4-0-38-0, Vipraj 1-0-13-0, Axar 3-0-23-1, Kuldeep 4-0-33-1, Stubbs 1-0-12-0.

Toss: RR; **PoM:** Starc.
Match tied.

Super Over

Royals 11/2 in 0.5 overs lost to Capitals 13/0 in 0.4 overs.

Next assignment

DC: April 19 vs GT
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

RR: April 19 vs LSG
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	10	0.744
Gujarat Titans	6	4	2	8	1.081
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	8	0.672
Punjab Kings	6	4	2	8	0.172
Lucknow Super Giants	7	4	3	8	0.086
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	3	4	6	0.547
Mumbai Indians	6	2	4	4	0.104
Rajasthan Royals	7	2	5	4	-0.714
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	2	4	4	-1.245
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	4	-1.276

** Till the DC-RR match on April 16*

Collective failure of the batting unit: Rahane

Sahil Mathur
NEW CHANDIGARH

Kolkata Knight Riders batters were not complacent; they didn't bat well and lacked game awareness, team captain Ajinkya Rahane said after the 16-run loss against Punjab Kings at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

"It's a collective failure of the batting unit. It's not only about hitting sixes and fours; strike rotation is very important, and that didn't happen from our side. It's not like they bowled very well; we played very bad shots. I take the responsibility as a captain that we couldn't chase this," Rahane said after the loss.

Rahane was struck in front by Yuzvendra Chahal and given out. However, replays showed that the impact was outside off-stump and wouldn't have been out had he reviewed.

"Communication between the batters wasn't clear. If someone tells you clearly that the impact could be outside, then, as a batter, you take the review. Generally, whoever is the non-striker, whatever they say, you think along that way."

111 is now the lowest total ever defended in IPL history. But did the Punjab Kings believe it could defend it at the halfway mark?

"We were never short of confidence. We knew our bowlers were capable of doing well here. They snatched the game away from KKR," Nehal Wadhera said.

Battle between MI's Bumrah and SRH's left-handed top-order the key

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Met department has issued a heat wave in Mumbai this week. With a high-profile clash featuring some of the hardest hitters in the game, Thursday night is set to be as hot as the day in south Mumbai.

Besides their red-hot batting units, Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad have a lot in common. Both outfits banked heavily on retaining their core instead of a complete overhaul ahead of the season. The two had a torrid run initially before bouncing back with morale-boosting wins heading into this clash.

Sunrisers will hope for Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head – who rediscovered their mojo in Hyderabad against Punjab Kings over the weekend – to continue in the same vein. Mumbai, on the other hand, will hope for its underperforming top-order to relieve the pressure on the middle and lower order.

While the focus will be on Jasprit Bumrah's duel against Travishek, SRH will be banking on another left-hander to fire – Ishan Kishan. And the pocket dynamo at No. 3 himself will be desperate to make a case against his former team.

Ishan did not bat during Saturday's nets, but he knows the conditions at Wankhede more than anyone else in the SRH camp. Having been let go by MI in the big auction, he will be desperate to repeat his heroics in the season-opener.

But the left-handed trio at the top will obviously be wary of Bumrah, a wounded tiger after the beating he took from Karun Nair in New Delhi. Bumrah was at his miserly best at the Wankhede on his comeback game last week, but MI will want for him to get back into a wicket-taking streak.

While captain Hardik Pandya will look forward to continuing his exploits along with finisher Naman Dhir, the home fans will hope for Suryakumar Yadav to repeat his last year's hundred against the same opposition.

Getting ready: MI captain Hardik during a nets session on Wednesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Today's match

MUMBAI INDIANS vs SUNRISERS

Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 23

MI 13 | SRH 10

PREVIOUS MEETING

MI won by **seven wickets**, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Abhishek and Head anything but reckless, says coach Vettori

Backing his batter: SRH coach Vettori with Head at a training session on Wednesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

At a time when batters are fearless and reckless frequently in the T20 era, Daniel Vettori, the Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach, stressed that neither Abhishek Sharma nor Travis Head do so despite the general impression.

"When we have been successful in the Powerplay, Abhi and Travis have just been able to play their shots and deal with any ball on merit. Because there is a reputation of aggressive play and all-out attack, when the dismissals do come, people surmise that it could be slightly reckless, but that's not the way I view it," Vettori said here on Wednesday, ahead of Sunrisers' Indian Premier League clash against Mumbai Indians.

"Bowlers are allowed to bowl well, and you can't succeed all the time. But I know how much thought Abby and Travis put into their batting and how much they assess conditions, how much they assess bowlers.

"And they know that when the ball's there, they obviously want to hit it. But at no stage do I feel like they are being reckless or anything like that. They are just very good players who have a lot of shots."

Despite a timid start to the campaign, Abhishek and Head added 171 – the highest partnership of the season – against Punjab Kings as SRH accomplished the highest successful chase of the season.

INBRIEF

Kothari trumps Advani to win IBSF World billiards crown

Sourav Kothari got the better of compatriot and holder Pankaj Advani 725-480 in final of the 2025 IBSF World billiards championship (timed format) in Carlow, Ireland, on Wednesday.

5,000m race walk silver for Nitin at Asian u-18 youth meet

India's Nitin Gupta won the 5,000m race walk silver (20:21.51) in the Asian under-18 athletics championships in Dammam (Saudi Arabia) on Wednesday. China's Zhu Ninghao won the gold clocking 20:21.50 while Chinese Taipei's Sheng Qin Lo claimed bronze in 21:37.88.

Defending champion Odisha FC relegated from IWL

Sreebhumi FC put paid to defending champion Odisha FC's sojourn in the Indian Women's League with a 3-0 victory in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. Odisha needed to eke out a result to even stand a chance at staying in the top tier but its fate was sealed thanks to Nongmeikapam Shibani Devi's hat-trick. This is the first time in Indian women's football history that defending champion of a league has been relegated.

Villa hit a bum note with wrong anthem for CL match

There was confusion before kickoff in the second leg of the Champions League quarterfinal between Aston Villa and PSG on Tuesday when the anthem for the second-tier Europa League competition appeared to be played by mistake. A minute or so later, the more famous Champions League anthem was finally played – by which the players were almost ready for the kickoff.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Barcelona hangs on by the skin of its teeth after stirring Dortmund riposte

A rocking Aston Villa has Paris Saint-Germain sweating on its progress to the semifinals with a stunning comeback

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
DORTMUND

Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain both survived a massive fight-back from Borussia Dortmund and Aston Villa respectively in the Champions League quarterfinal second leg before progressing on aggregate scores on Tuesday.

Serhou Guirassy scored a hat-trick and still ended up on the losing side as Dortmund's 3-1 win over Barcelona wasn't enough to prevent a 5-3 aggregate loss to Barcelona.

PSG, meanwhile, stayed off a gallant fightback by Villa to reach the semifinals despite a 3-2 loss on Tuesday. After being swept aside 4-0 in the first leg, Dortmund attacked Barcelona from the start.

Guirassy made no mistake from the penalty spot in the 11th minute after Barcelona goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny collided with Pascal Gross. Guirassy's header made it 2-0 in the 49th minute before an own goal by Ramy Bensebaini made Dortmund's task even harder. Guirassy completed his hat-trick with a powerful close-range shot in the 76th.

Holding a 3-1 lead from last week, PSG built a four-goal cushion thanks to goals by full backs Achraf Hakimi and Nuno Mendes inside 27 minutes.

But Villa roared back thanks to a deflected shot before halftime by Youri Tielemans and then goals in a two-minute span from John McGinn and Ezri Konsa by the 57th. Only a string of fine saves from PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma denied Villa a fourth goal. PSG advanced 5-4 on aggregate.

The results (quarterfinals, second leg): Borussia Dortmund 3 (Guirassy 11-pen, 49, 76) bt Barcelona 1 (Bensebaini 54-og) (*Barcelona won 5-3 on aggregate*); Aston Villa 3 (Tielemans 34, McGinn 55, Konsa 57) bt PSG 2 (Hakimi 11, Mendes 27) (*PSG won 5-4 on aggregate*).

Hat-trick hero: Guirassy scores Dortmund's third against Barcelona. AP

Ju retains crown in an emphatic manner

CHESS

Sports Bureau

China's Ju Wenjun settled for a draw against compatriot Tan Zhongyi in the ninth game of the FIDE women's World Chess Championship match to defend her title with a 6.5-2.5 margin. Ju has been the champion since 2018 when she beat Tan to claim the title for the first time.

With her triumph in Chongqing, China, on Wednesday, Ju became a five-time champion and joined an illustrious list of women players, that includes Vera Menchik, Nona Gaprindashvili, and Maia Chiburdanidze, to have won the World title five times or more.

Playing white in the ninth game, Ju saw her opponent obtain an early advantage before she fought back.

Ju...reign continues. FIDE

After a few exchanges, the game transitioned into a rook endgame, and by move 38, repetition confirmed the result – a draw.

After a draw in opening game, Ju lost the second before hitting back in style to win five of the next seven including four on the bounce.

Suruchi pips Manu for the gold; Saurabh wins bronze

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Suruchi Singh continued to assert her class as she won her second successive air pistol gold in the shooting World Cup in Lima, Peru, on Tuesday.

Fresh from her maiden World Cup gold last week in Buenos Aires, the 18-year-old Suruchi beat double Olympic medallist, compatriot Manu Bhaker by 1.3 point for the gold, after shooting an impressive 582 in qualification.

Qualification topper Yao Qianxun of China took bronze.

Suruchi had been phenomenal in the last Nationals, sweeping the gold in the women's, junior and youth sections.

India was on top of the medals table ahead of China, as Saurabh Chaudhary had earlier won the men's air pistol bronze behind Hu Kai of China and Felipe Wu of Brazil. Varun Tomar placed fourth.

Top three: Suruchi, flanked by silver medallist Manu Bhaker, left, and Yao after her triumph on Tuesday. ISSF

The results:
10m air pistol: 1. Hu Kai (Chn) 246.4 (586); 2. Felipe Wu (Bra) 241.0 (578); 3. Saurabh Chaudhary 219.1 (578); 4. Varun Tomar 198.1 (576); 12. Ravinder Singh 574; RPO: Aakash Bhardwaj 583; Amit Sharma 573.

Women: 1. Suruchi Singh 243.6 (582); 2. Manu Bhaker 242.3 (578); 3. Yao Qianxun (Chn) 219.5 (586); 15. Sainyam 571; RPO: Surbhi Rao 577; Simranpreet Kaur Brar 576.

Zhu in lead; Humpy beats Divya

Sports Bureau

Zhu Jiner of China has taken the sole lead at the FIDE Women's Grand Prix Chess at Amanora-The Fern in Pune. The second seed has 2.5 points after drawing with Salome Melia of Poland in the third round.

Top seed Koneru Humpy bounced back into form with a win against overnight joint leader Divya Deshmukh in an all-India affair. She, like Divya, has two points.

The day also saw D. Harika posting her first win, over Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria. She has 1.5 points, with six rounds remaining.

The results (third round): Zhu Jiner (Chn) drew 2.5 with Salome Melia (Geo) 1; Alina Kashlinskaya (Pol) 0.5 lost to Mungutuul Batkhuyag (Mng) 2; Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 0.5 lost to D. Harika 1.5; R. Vaishali 1 drew with Polina Shuvalova (Rus) 2; Koneru Humpy 2 bt Divya Deshmukh 2.

Tamil Nadu boys and Maharashtra girls triumph

BASKETBALL

Sports Bureau

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra bagged the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the 40th National youth basketball championships in Puducherry on Wednesday.

In the boys' final, Tamil Nadu dethroned Rajasthan 96-85, while Maharashtra also beat defending champion Karnataka 76-49 in the girls' summit clash.

The tournament's most valuable player in boys' section was awarded to V. Sumanesh of Tami Nadu while Reva Kulkarni of Maharashtra received the award in the girls' section.

Rewarding success: The Tamil Nadu squad receiving its big prize. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Boys: Final: Tamil Nadu bt Rajasthan 96-85.

Bronze medal match: Haryana bt Delhi 95-78.

Girls: Final: Maharashtra bt Karnataka 76-49.

Bronze medal match: Tamil Nadu bt Chhattisgarh 95-69.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Petrosyan in joint lead with five others

Manuel Petrosyan and five others hold the lead after the eighth round of the 2nd Namma Bengaluru international grandmasters open chess tournament at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium on Wednesday. Petrosyan, Dzhumaev Marat, Levan Pantsulaia, Nithin Babu, Iniyan Pa and Audi Ameya are tied with 6.5 points each.
Two more rounds remain in the race for the title.

Manuel Petrosyan.

Dyes bests Snipers

DYES FC defeated Snipers (KSFA) 3-2 in the BDFA 'A' division men's football league championship here on Wednesday.

The results: BDFA: Men: 'A' division: Blitz FC 3 (Vivek Singh 17, Mrunal Gowda 36, 49) bt Roots FS (KSFA) 2 (Sparsh Desai 29, Chetan Bhadrapur-og 89); DYES FC 3 (M. Himandeep Gowda 25, Cyril Jones 64, 75) bt Snipers (KSFA) 2 (G. Shreyas 6, V.P. Shahil 22).

'C' division: Hampinagar FC bt Bangalore Yellows 1-0; IIS FC bt JP Sports 3-0.

KSFA: Men: 'C' division: Undisputed FC drew with Hawks United 1-1; Kickstart FC bt Bangalore North FC 3-0; Agniputhra FC bt La Esperanza FC 2-0; FC Mangalore bt Stadium FC 1-0.

Women: 'B' division: Silicans FC bt Sporting de Bengaluru 2-0; Inter Bengaluru drew with Blues FA 1-1; Kemp FC drew with Reds United FC 0-0.

Troubled Red Bull searches for path back to the fast lane

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA)

Ailing Red Bull arrives on the Red Sea for this weekend's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix in Jeddah desperate to prevent its 2025 season sinking into mediocrity.

The Austrian Formula One giant left Bahrain on Sunday in sombre mood, its limitations laid bare under the harsh floodlights in the desert of Sakhir.

Here *AFP Sport* assesses the issues that threaten to derail Max Verstappen's quest for a fifth successive world title:

Verstappen slipped to third in the drivers' standings, eight points behind McLaren's leader Lando Norris, after trailing in sixth, over half a minute behind Norris's teammate Oscar Piastri, in Bahrain.

He has accounted for all bar two of the team's tally in the constructors' championship where it is lagging a massive 80 points behind runaway leader McLaren after just four races.

Crisis talks

As McLaren celebrated its third win from four in Sakhir, Red Bull convened a 'crisis' meeting involving its top brass.

Team principal Christian Horner, influential advisor Helmut Marko, technical director Pierre Wache, and chief engineer Paul Monaghan met to mull over the team's plight.

Uncertain times: Red Bull left Bahrain in sombre mood, its limitations laid bare in the desert of Sakhir. GETTY IMAGES

Horner, in a post-race media encounter in Red Bull's hospitality tent, had offered a blunt appraisal of where they were at.

"This race has exposed some pitfalls that are obviously very clear that we need to get on top of very quickly. Ultimately you can mask it a little through set-up and we were able to achieve that last weekend in Suzuka. We understand where the issues are, it's introducing the solutions that obviously takes a little more time," he said.

Verstappen, who was plum last at one stage at the Bahrain Grand Prix, lamented that "basically everything went wrong".

"It's of course not what we want, but it's just where we are at with our car and the tyre behaviour that we have with the car. Everything is just highlighted even more on a track like this," added the Dutchman.

Red Bull would be in even worse shape if it wasn't for Verstappen's combative brilliance in cajoling a problematic car to fight with quicker rivals like McLaren and Mercedes.

His win in Japan in the first leg of this month's triple header was only down to arguably his greatest ever qualifying performance.

The machine's idiosyncrasies proved too tough a riddle to solve for the unfortunate Liam Lawson, who was unceremoniously dropped to their sister team RB after just two races. The Kiwi's successor Yuki Tsunoda finished out of the points in Suzuka before adding two from ninth place in Sakhir.

Without an effective 'wingman' to help him in races Verstappen is left to do it all on his own.

It can surely be no coincidence that Red Bull's malaise comes after some of its brightest brains have jumped ship.

The team was shocked when legendary Design guru Adrian Newey quit to join Aston Martin.

Another huge loss was the departure of Sporting director Jonathan Wheatley, who took up his new role as Sauber team principal this month. Red Bull's head of race strategy Will Courtenay also left, for McLaren, where former chief designer Rob Marshall had moved to in 2023.

Max's future?

Verstappen, who has been with the Red Bull family since 2015, has a deal running until 2028.

In an interview with *AFP* in Mexico last October he said it was "definitely" his intention to see out his time at Red Bull, despite the tension surrounding Horner last season after he was accused of inappropriate conduct towards a woman colleague.

Horner was cleared of any wrongdoing ahead of the 2024 season-opener but the off-track scandal rumbled on for weeks.

Yet on Monday, Marko dropped a bombshell, telling *Sky Germany* he has "great concern" that unless Red Bull ups its game, Verstappen could up sticks.

Bopanna and Shelton make the last eight in Munich

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Ben Shelton beat fourth seeds Jamie Murray and Rajeev Ram 6-4, 6-3 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €2,500,000 ATP tennis tournament in Munich.

Other results: €2,500,000 ATP, Munich: Doubles:
Pre-quarterfinals: Kevin Krawietz & Tim Puetz (Ger) bt Yuki Bhambri & Robert Galloway (USA) 6-4, 7-6(5).
$200,000 Challenger, Busan: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Ramkumar Ramanathan & Aoran Wang (Chn) bt Sun Fajing (Chn) & Kaichi Uchida (Jpn) 6-1, 2-6, [10-7].
€181,250 Challenger, Oeiras, Portugal: Doubles:
Pre-quarterfinals: Niki Poonacha & Sergio Gornes (Esp) w/o Thiago Monteiro & Thiago Wild (Bra).
$15,000 ITF women, Antalya:
First round: Vaishnavi Adkar bt Gaia Maduzzi (Ita) 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-0.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Vaishnavi & Ilay Yoruk (Tur) bt Karolina Valentova & Viktorie Zidelova (Cze) 6-1, 6-2; Alena Kovackova & Jana Kovackova (Cze) bt Madhurima Sawant & Isabella Serban (Ita) 6-2, 7-5.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Zeel Desai & Anastasiia Gureva bt Giulia Monteleone (Ita) & Sarah Nita (Cuw) 6-2, 6-1; Zi Ying Ruan (Chn) & Ximena Senties (Mex) bt Lidia Encheva (Bul) & Tanisha 6-4, 1-6, [11-9]; Valentina Losciale (Ita) & Saumya bt Helena Stevic & Louna Zoppas (Fra) 6-3, 4-6, [10-7].